Featuring America's Fighting Nemesis of Crime

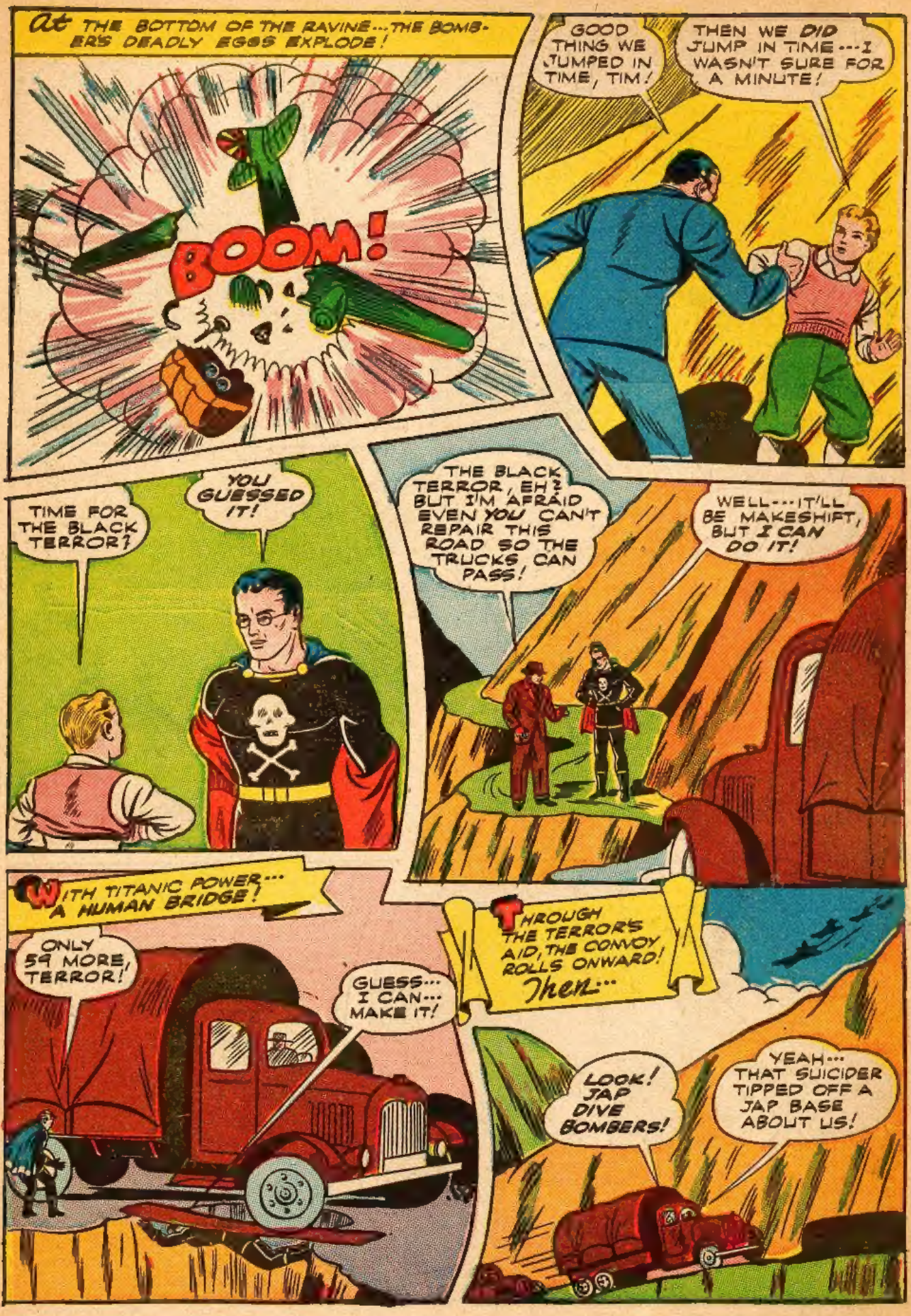
10¢

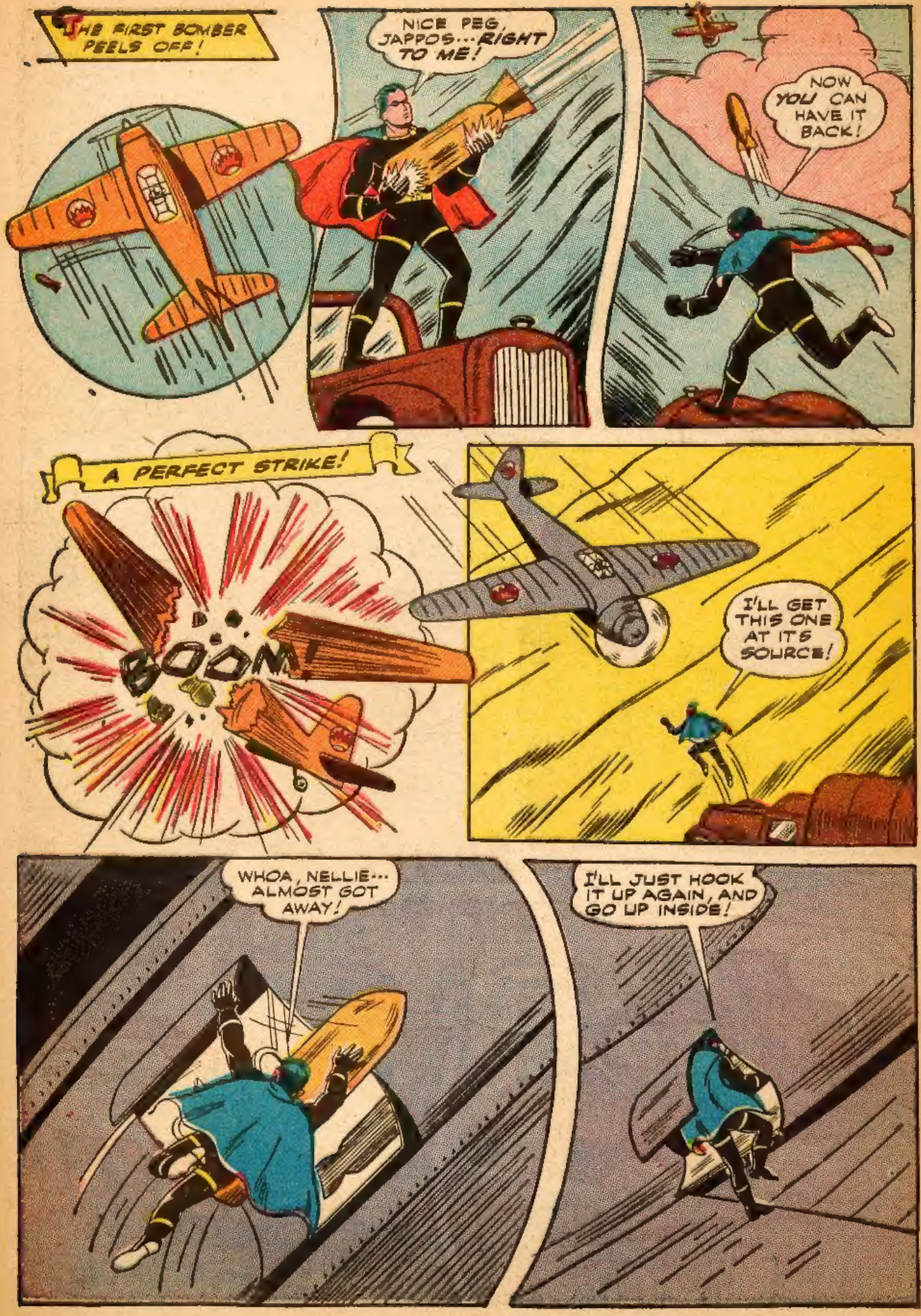
The BLACK TERROR

NO. 2

The Black
TERROR
INTO THE TITANIC STRUGGLE BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND TYRANNY STEPS A DYNAMIC FIGURE.... THE BLACK TERROR! IT IS IN THIS ALL-POWERFUL GUISE THAT MEEK BOB BENTON, AND HIS PAL, TIM, SWEEP ACROSS EUROPE AND ASIA, CRUSHING THE AXIS WHEREVER THEY MEET IT!
A Marble River

BOB AND TIM ATTEND A MEETING OF AMERICAN NATIONALS IN CALCUTTA, INDIA···
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO DRIVE A CONVOY OF SUPPLIES TO THE CHINESE ARMY OVER THE PARTIALLY-COMPLETED ROAD THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS!
GEE, THE CHINESE MUST NEED THOSE SUPPLIES PRETTY BADLY!
YEAH··· AND I GUESS JEAN WILL BE SAFE FOR AWHILE HERE! LET'S SIGN UP!
YOU TWO GUYS TOGETHER? WHAT'RE YER NAMES?
··ER·· AH··· CHRIS SAVAGE AND SAM EVERETT!
HUH?
THE HUGE CONVOY OF AMERICAN LORRIES STARTS ITS PERILOUS JOURNEY!
WHY'D YOU GIVE A FAKE NAME?
IF THE BLACK TERROR IS NEEDED, I DON'T WANT IT KNOWN THAT BOB BENTON'S HIS REAL NAME!
SUDDENLY···
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT··· THERE'S A JAP RECONNAISSANCE BOMBER, LOOKING US OVER!
PROBABLY RADIOING HIS BASE! WE'RE IN FOR A HOT TIME!
GET SET TO JUMP!
THE NIPPONESE DIVES!
SMASH!


At THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE... THE BOMBERS DEADLY EGGS EXPLODE!
BOOM!
GOOD THING WE JUMPED IN TIME, TIM!
THEN WE DID JUMP IN TIME... I WASN'T SURE FOR A MINUTE!
TIME FOR THE BLACK TERROR?
YOU GUESSED IT!
THE BLACK TERROR, EH? BUT I'M AFRAID EVEN YOU CAN'T REPAIR THIS ROAD SO THE TRUCKS CAN PASS!
WELL... IT'LL BE MAKESHIFT, BUT I CAN DO IT!
WITH TITANIC POWER... A HUMAN BRIDGE!
ONLY 59 MORE, TERROR!
GUESS... I CAN... MAKE IT!
THROUGH THE TERROR'S AID, THE CONVOY ROLLS ONWARD! Then...
LOOK! JAP DIVE BOMBERS!
YEAH... THAT SUICIDER TIPPED OFF A JAP BASE ABOUT US!


THE FIRST BOMBER PEELS OFF!
NICE PEG, JAPPOS... RIGHT TO ME!
NOW YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK!
A PERFECT STRIKE!
BOOM!
I'LL GET THIS ONE AT ITS SOURCE!
WHOA, NELLIE... ALMOST GOT AWAY!
I'LL JUST HOOK IT UP AGAIN, AND GO UP INSIDE!

HELLO, JOE... WHADDYA KNOW?
SOCK!
THE OTHER PILOTS SEE THEIR COMRADE OVERCOME!
THERE'S ROOM FOR ONLY ONE OF US IN HERE! SO LONG, PAL!
YIPPP!
AS THE JAPS CONVERGE ON HIM...
WHEN THAT PILOT TRIED TO DROP HIS BOMB HE STARTED THE EXPLODING DELAYED-ACTION MECHANISM! IT'S DUE TO GO OFF ANY SECOND NOW!
A DARING MID-AIR SWITCH!
SO I GUESS IT'S A GOOD TIME TO CHANGE PLANES!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...
YES, SIR... I'M GLAD I'M OVER HERE!
BA-ROOM!
NO MORE BOMBS TO DROP... SO I'LL SUBSTITUTE THE PILOT!

WHAT A MAN··· HE SURE HANDLED THIS SITUATION!
HE CAN HANDLE ANY SITUATION!
NO PLACE TO LAND HERE··· GUESS I'LL FLY AHEAD TILL I FIND A LEVEL SPOT!
HOURS LATER···THE TRUCKS ROUND THE BASE OF A DORMANT VOLCANO!
WONDER WHERE THE BLACK TERROR WENT?
HE SHOULD HAVE FOUND A PLACE TO LAND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE ROAD, UP HERE ON THE PLATEAU!
THERE HE IS!
BETTER STOP··· THERE'S A BIG FLIGHT OF JAP PLANES APPROACHING!
THEN, AS THE PLANES PASS OVERHEAD···
PARACHUTISTS! WE'RE SUNK!
THOSE BABIES MEAN BUSINESS, ALL RIGHT··· BUT I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS THREAT!

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH AN ANTI-TANK GUN?
WELL--THESE DORMANT VOLCANOES DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STEAM PRESSURE TO ERUPT, BUT THEY'VE PLENTY OF KICK LEFT!
ENOUGH KICK, I THINK, TO SERVE MY PURPOSE!
CR-RUNCH!
IF ANYTHING CAN GET THROUGH, AN ANTI-TANK SHELL WILL!
BLAM!
THE PARA-CHUTISTS ARE ABOUT TO LAND!
THEY'LL NEVER LAND IF MY PLAN WORKS! NOW TO PULL THE GUN BACK OUT AGAIN!
FROM THE GAPING HOLE THAT'S LEFT...
LIVE STEAM! IT WORKED!
THE STEAM BLASTS OUT WITH TERRIFIC FORCE!
WOW! IT'S CAUGHT THOSE BABIES FAIR!
ARG!
WHOOOSH!

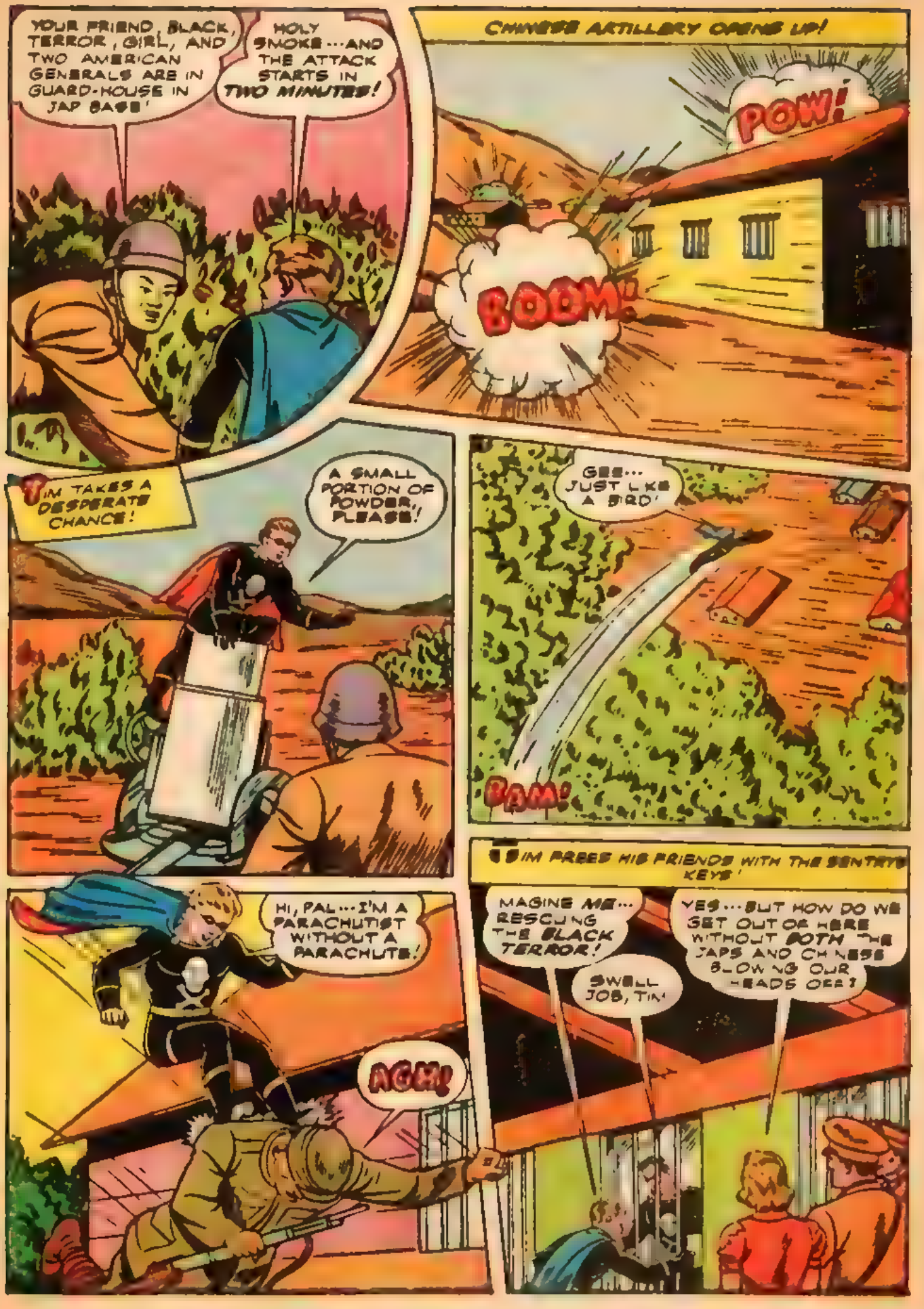
THE JAPS ARE SCATTERED BEFORE THE STEAM SUBSIDES!
THERE THEY GO!
WON'T THEY COME BACK--- AND ATTACK WHEN THEY DO LAND?
DON'T WORRY--THE ONES THAT ARE LEFT ALIVE HAD ALL THE FIGHT TAKEN OUT OF THEM BY THAT STEAM!
BUT SUDDENLY.....
THEN WHAT'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW--- DUCK!
PING!
JAP HORSEMEN ATTACK!
THIS ATTACK MUST HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH THE PARACHUTE ATTACK--- BUT WE CAN LICK 'EM ALONE!
THE TRUCKERS OPEN UP!
WHEE! THAT'S CUTTING 'EM DOWN!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
AIEE!
AS ONE JAP BITES THE DUST....
BANG!
ARG!
PLING
...THE STRAY BULLET HITS THE ONCE-IN-A-MILLION JACKPOT!
And ABOARD THE PLANE--JEAN STARR-- EN ROUTE TO A REUNION WITH BOB BENTON!

THE MOTOR FLAMES UP! THE FIRE SPREADS!
I'LL HAVE TO SET IT DOWN... AND PRAY!
A CRASH LANDING!
CRUNCH!
AS JEAN AND THE TWO OTHER PASSENGERS LEAP FROM THE PLANE, THE JAP HORSEMEN DASH UP, HAVING ABANDONED THEIR ATTACK ON THE CONVOY!
AMERICANS! WE TAKE THEM PRISONER, MAYBE GENERAL WILL NOT BE MAD WE FAIL TO STOP CONVOY!
NOW RIDE... FAST!
SEEKING THE FLEEING JAPS, THE BLACK TERROR AND TIM REACH THE PLANE!
GEE... I WONDER IF ANYONE GOT OUT ALIVE!
BOOM!
Then...
GREAT SCOTT... THIS IS JEAN'S SUITCASE! SHE MUST HAVE BEEN ON BOARD!
THOSE DIRTY...
WAIT... LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

I GAVE JEAN THAT HANDKERCHIEF FOR HER BIRTHDAY!
THEN···SHE ESCAPED FROM THE PLANE, AND WAS CAPTURED!
THERE MUST BE A JAP OPERATIONAL BASE NEARBY! I'LL FIND IT IN THAT CAPTURED PLANE···YOU GUYS RUSH THESE SUPPLIES TO THE CHINESE! YOU'RE NEARLY THERE!
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF FLYING····
THERE IT IS···AND AN ARMORED COLUMN IS MOVING OUT, PROBABLY TO ATTACK THE CHINESE!
HE DIVES AT THE LEADING TANK!
I MUST DELAY THEM UNTIL THAT CONVOY REACHES THE CHINESE!
THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE!
SMASH!
WELL, I HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING TO BREAK MY FALL!
CLANG!
CR-RACK!
BAM!
FIRST TIME I EVER TRIED A BODY SLAM WITH A TANK!
THE STUNNED JAPANESE SNAP INTO ACTION!

A MIGHTY THROW · AND THE OVERHANG COLLAPSES!
IT'LL TAKE A DAY TO CLEAN THAT UP... ENOUGH TME FOR THAT CONVOY TO GET THROUGH!
CR-RA-A-W!
NOW TO... GREAT GUNS! THERE'S JEAN... AND THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HER!
OH--NO! ---NO! HELP!
AT THE LAST MOMENT...
HELLO, JEAN!
TERROR! THANK HEAVEN YOU'VE COME!
SCRAM, RAT!
POW!
THERE... YOU'RE FREE NOW!
LOOK OUT! HERE COME MORE SOLDIERS!

THIS STAKE OUGHT TO MAKE A HANDY WEAPON!
THEY... THEY'VE GOT US HEMMED IN!
HOT DOG... EVERY ONE OF 'EM ON THE NOSE!
YOW!
KER-SPLAT!
But, FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION ..
WHAT THE... STOP! I'LL SURRENDER!
VERY WELL. OTHERWISE WE KILL HER!
THROW THEM IN SEPARATE CELLS! WE MUST KEEP THE GIRL ALIVE SO WE CAN CONTROL HIM!
DON'T WORRY, JEAN! WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS!
MEANWHILE... THE CONVOY REACHES THE CHINESE ARMY!
OF COURSE WE HAVE HEARD OF THE BLACK TERROR!
WELL, I'M BETTING HE'S FIXED THAT JAP BASE SO YOU COULD ATTACK IT AND CAPTURE IT!
HIS BOLD PLAN ACCEPTED, TIM JOINS A CHINESE SCOUTING PARTY!
CAN YOU FELLOWS UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING?
YES!
真不是頁!


YOUR FRIEND, BLACK TERROR, GIRL, AND TWO AMERICAN GENERALS ARE IN GUARD-HOUSE IN JAP BASE!
HOLY SMOKE...AND THE ATTACK STARTS IN TWO MINUTES!
CHINESE ARTILLERY OPENS UP!
POW!
BOOM!
TIM TAKES A DESPERATE CHANCE!
A SMALL PORTION OF POWDER, PLEASE!
GEE... JUST LIKE A BIRD!
BAM!
TIM FREES HIS FRIENDS WITH THE SENTRY'S KEYS!
HI, PAL...I'M A PARACHUTIST WITHOUT A PARACHUTE!
AGH!
IMAGINE ME... RESCUING THE BLACK TERROR!
SWELL JOB, TIM!
YES...BUT HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT BOTH THE JAPS AND CHINESE BLOWING OUR HEADS OFF?

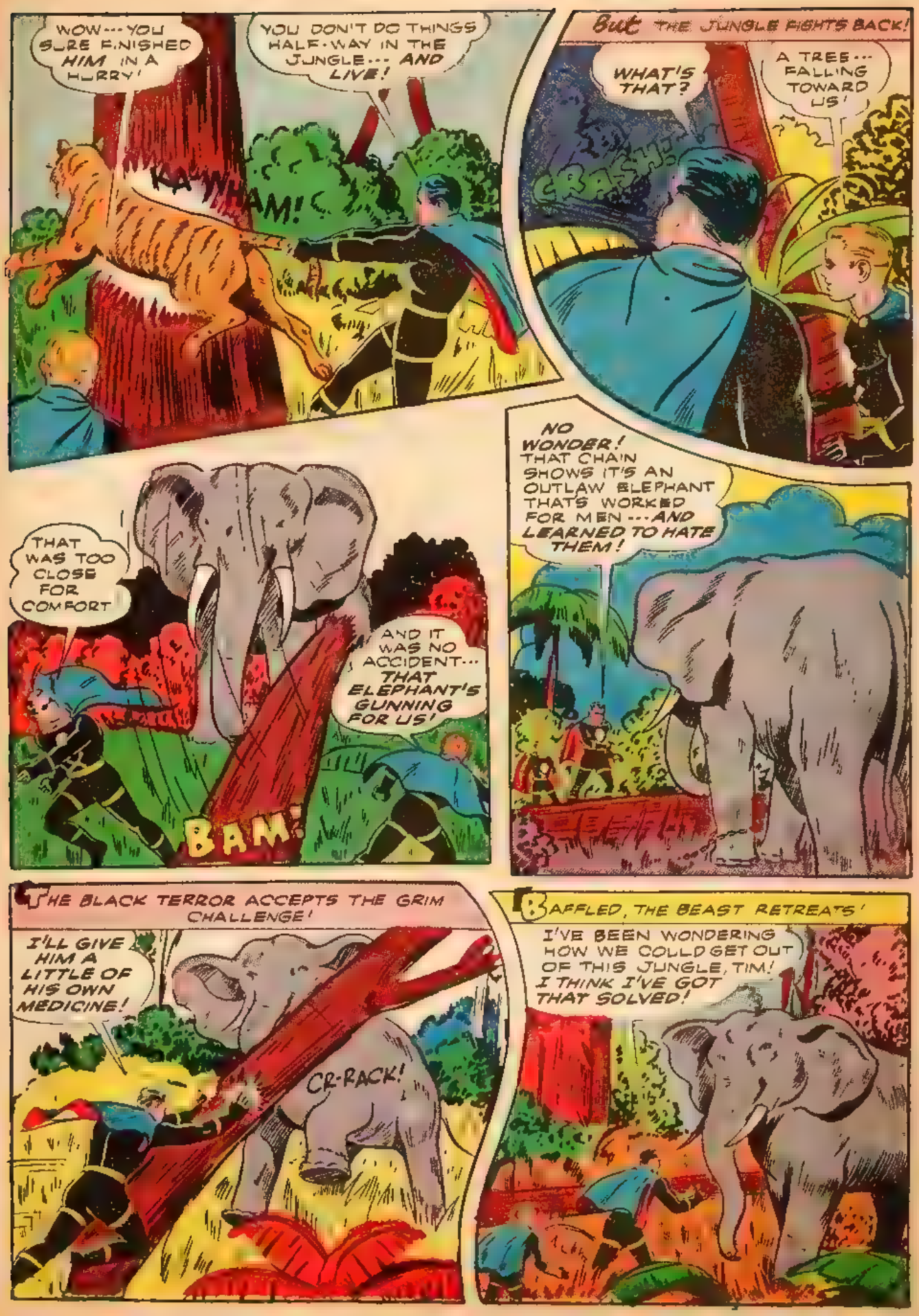
OUTSIDE ····
THERE'S THE JAP GENERAL, TRYING TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE! WE COULD USE THAT ARMORED CAR!
THE TERROR TWINS WHIRL INTO ACTION!
YOU GUYS WILL HAVE TO STAY AND FACE THE CHINESE! WE'RE TAKING YOUR CAR AND YOUR GENERAL!
AS THEY DASH FOR THE CHINESE LINES ···
LOOK, FELLAS··· YOUR GENERAL PREFERS OUR COMPANY TO YOURS!
THE LEADERLESS JAPS ARE FORCED TO SURRENDER!
JUST AS I BREAK YOUR SWORD ··· THE CHINESE AND OUR ALLIES WILL BREAK THE MILITARY MIGHT OF TOKYO!
BRAVO!
SNAP!
THANKS TO YOU, BLACK TERROR, WE CAN USE THIS BASE TO DRIVE THE JAPS BACK ALL ALONG THE LINE!
HELPING YOU CHINESE IS HELPING ALL THE UNITED NATIONS, AND ALL LOVERS OF FREEDOM!
AS FOR YOU, YOUNG LADY··· YOU'D BETTER STOP GETTING INTO TROUBLE! SOME DAY THE BLACK TERROR WON'T SHOW UP··· MAYBE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ALL I KNOW IS IT WOULD SAVE EVERYBODY A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THE FOLKS AT HOME BOUGHT MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!
The BLACK TERROR ··· YOUR FAVORITE HERO ··· RETURNS NEXT MONTH IN ANOTHER NON-STOP ADVENTURE!

The Black Terror
ALL ABOARD FOR THE MURDEROUS SHORES OF NAZILAND FOR AS CHILLING AND THRILL-LADEN A TALE AS YOU'VE EVER MET! THE BLACK TERROR'S BACK AGAIN--- DISCARDING HIS IDENTITY AS MEEK BOB BENTON AND THROWING HIS MIGHTY ALL TO THE AID OF EMBATTLED DEMOCRACY! A RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST THE AXIS HAS TAKEN HIM TO THE HEART OF GERMANY--- WHERE THIS STORY BEGINS....

AT THE EDGE OF A NAZI FRONT-LINE AIRFIELD....
JEAN'S BEEN TRANSFERRED TO INDIA... SO WE'D BETTER FOLLOW TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER!
TAKING A NAZI PLANE INSTEAD OF A BADLY-NEEDED ALLIED PLANE IS A GOOD IDEA, TOO!
THE BLACK TERROR AND TIM BLAST INTO THE NAZIS!
ONE SIDE, LUGS!
BOY...I NEVER GET TIRED OF KNOCKING YOU GUYS AROUND!
HIMMEL!
AG!
CLIMB IN, TIM... I'LL HOLD 'EM OFF!
UF!
YEAH... AND THOSE NAZIS SURE WERE ANNOYED!
MADE IT!
BANG!
BANG!
Then...
THEY CIRCLE ONCE OVER THE AIRDROME...
PLANE'S GOT A FULL LOAD OF BOMBS... WE CAN'T AFFORD TO CARRY ALL THAT WEIGHT TO INDIA!
I GETCHA, PAL!
BA-ROOM!

SAY··· ONE OF THE BOMBS STUCK BACK THERE!
AND HERE COME TWO NAZI FIGHTERS TO GET US!
THE BLACK TERROR WASTES NO TIME!
COME HERE, LITTLE BOMB!
JUST LIKE DI MAGGIO PICKING 'EM OFF AT HOME PLATE!
BOOM!
DIRECT HIT!
MANY HOURS LATER, THE PLANE DIPS DOWN OVER THE LAST RANGE OF THE TOWERING HIMALAYAS··· TOWARD INDIA!
WE'VE BEEN FLYING SO HIGH, SO LONG··· WE'RE COVERED WITH FROST!
SOON AFTERWARD, WINGING SOUTH OVER THE INDIAN JUNGLE···
OH-OH!
SPUTT-SPUTT!
END OF THE LINE, TIM··· WE'RE OUT OF GAS!

HOLD ONTO YOUR EYE TEETH!
CR-RUNCH!
THEN, DOWN INTO THE DENSE, HALF-LIT JUNGLE!
ALL IN ONE PECE, TM?
SURE!
BOY... THIS IS REALLY NATURE IN THE RAW!
YOU SAID IT!
TIM... LOOK OUT!
GROWR!
THE TERROR INTERCEPTS A WILD BEAST'S LUNGE!
GR-ROWR!
JUST A MINUTE, TABBY!
HOLY SMOKE!
FOR YEARS I'VE WANTED TO GRAB A TIGER BY THE TAIL!
R-ROWR!

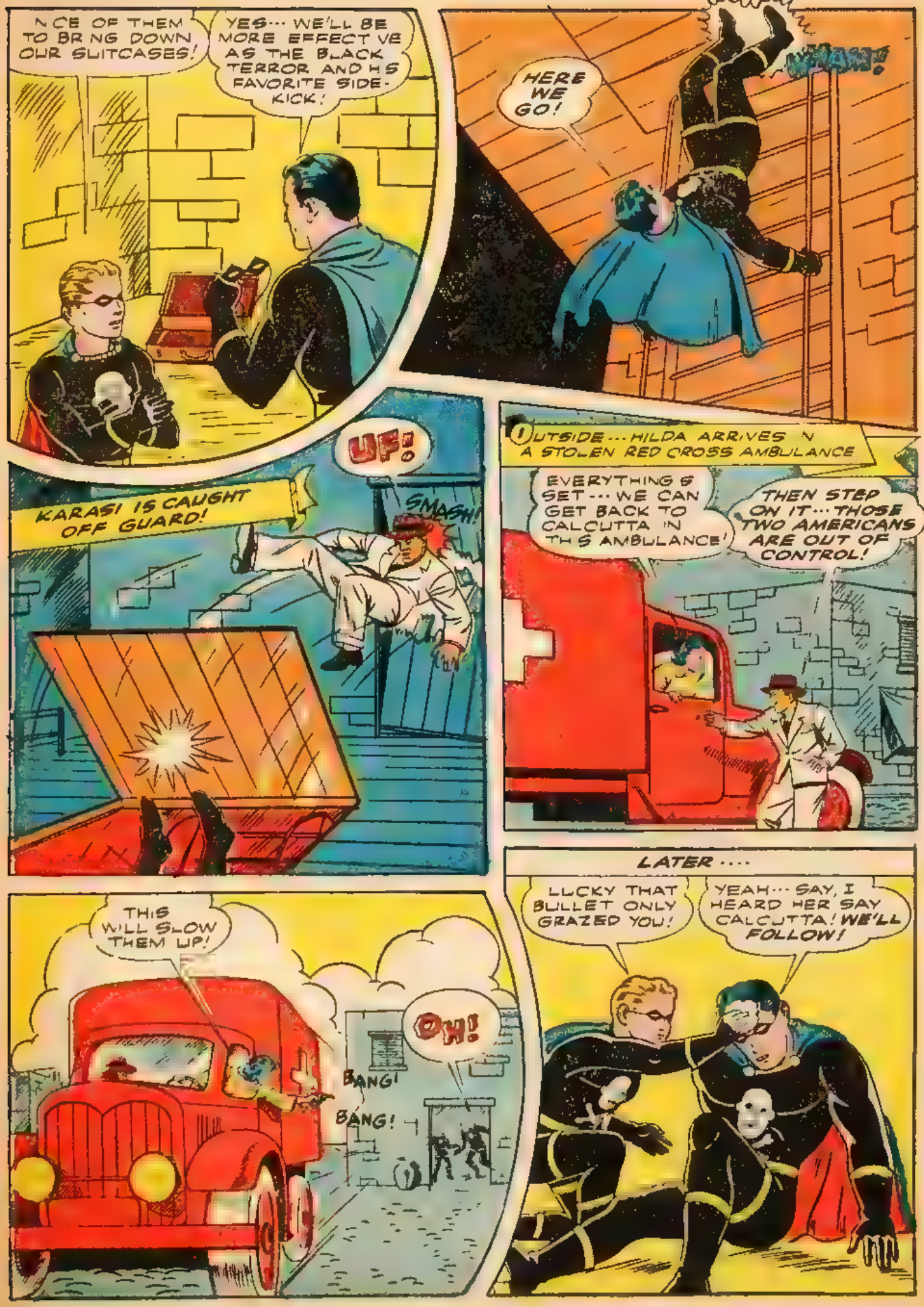

WOW--- YOU SURE FINISHED HIM IN A HURRY!
YOU DON'T DO THINGS HALF-WAY IN THE JUNGLE--- AND LIVE!
KA-WHAM!
But THE JUNGLE FIGHTS BACK!
WHAT'S THAT?
A TREE--- FALLING TOWARD US!
CRASH!
NO WONDER! THAT CHAIN SHOWS IT'S AN OUTLAW ELEPHANT THAT'S WORKED FOR MEN---AND LEARNED TO HATE THEM!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT
AND IT WAS NO ACCIDENT--- THAT ELEPHANT'S GUNNING FOR US!
BAM!
THE BLACK TERROR ACCEPTS THE GRIM CHALLENGE!
I'LL GIVE HIM A LITTLE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE!
CR-RACK!
BAFFLED, THE BEAST RETREATS!
I'VE BEEN WONDERING HOW WE COULD GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE, TIM! I THINK I'VE GOT THAT SOLVED!

BEFORE THE TERROR'S HYPNOTIC MASTERY...
DOWN! DOWN ON YOUR KNEES!
KINDA... BUMPY... ISN'T IT?
YEAH... BUT HE MAKES AMAZING SPEED, AND HE WON'T GET TIRED!
Then...
NIGHT FALLS... BUT ONWARD THEY PLOW!
JUNGLE'S THINNING OUT. I CAN SEE THE STARS OFTEN ENOUGH TO KEEP US ON OUR COURSE!
CRUNCH
NEXT MORNING...
AN ARMY BASE, TIM... OLD JUMBO CERTAINLY ATONED FOR TRYING TO KILL US!
AW... I WASN'T WORRIED... MUCH!
MEANWHILE... AT THE PORT OF CALCUTTA... JEAN ARRIVES!
LET'S SEE... I'M ASSIGNED TO THE BASE WHERE CRACK CHINESE TROOPS ARE BEING TRAINED BY AMERICAN OFFICERS! I'D BETTER GO STRAIGHT THERE!
TAXI, LADY?
SHE ENTERS... ONLY TO FIND...
WHA...!
NO OUTCRY, PLEASE... OR I KILL!

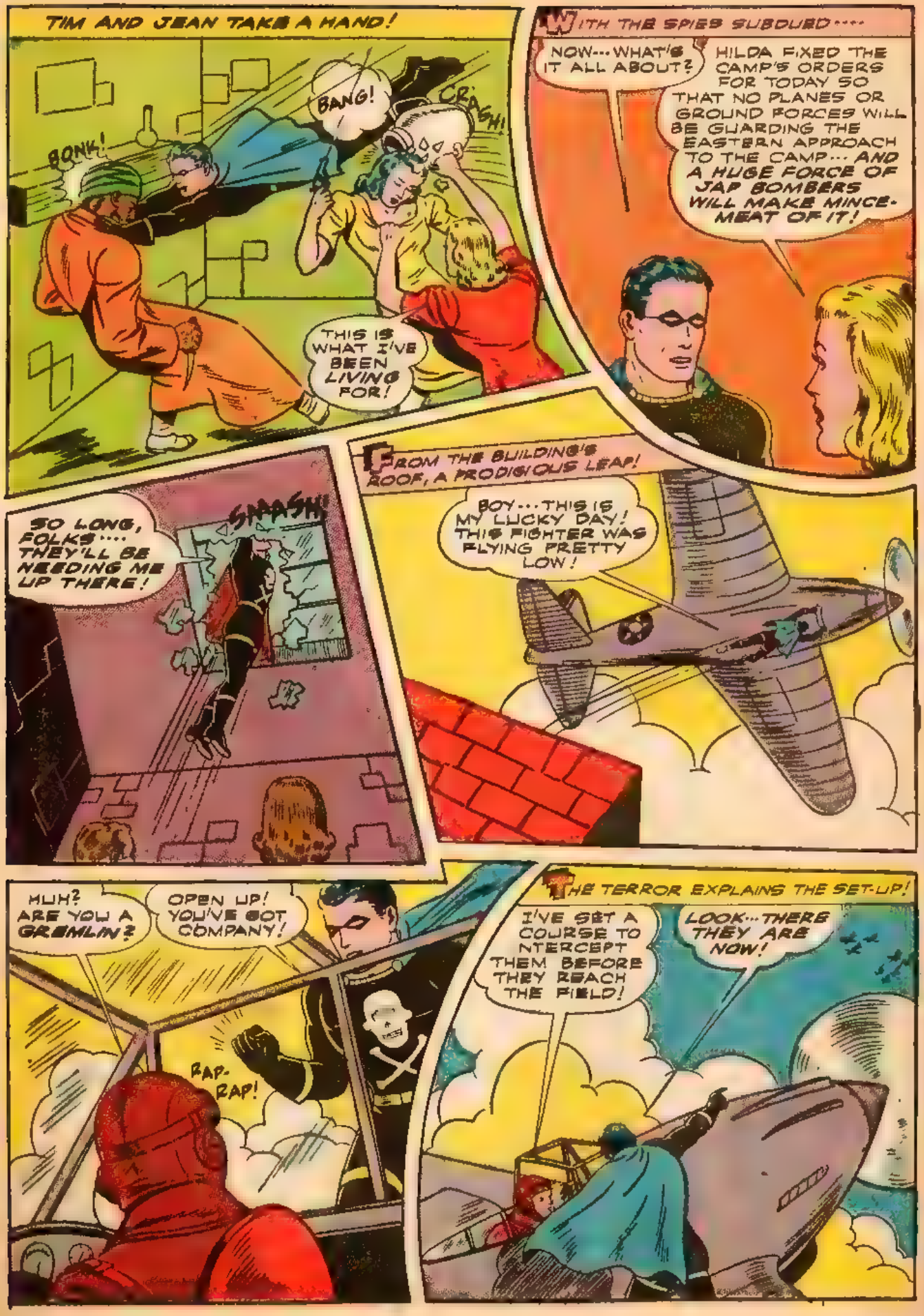
TO THE HEART OF THE NATIVE QUARTER!
YOU WILL NOT RUN OR CRY OUT--- OR MY KNIFE DRINKS DEEP!
NO--- YOU WOULDN'T.
INSIDE ....
I MIGHT HAVE GUESSED-- YOU'RE A JAP SPY!
MR. KARASI--- AT YOUR SERVICE! AND YOUR ESCORTS ARE BLOOD-THIRSTY HINDU TRAITORS--- HA-HA!
AND THIS IS HILDA--- AN ACE GESTAPO OPERATIVE! YOUR CREDENTIALS WILL GET HER INTO THE CAMP--- SINCE YOU ARE NOT KNOWN TO THEM BY SIGHT!
GOT EVERY-THING FIGURED OUT, HAVEN'T YOU?
SILENCE! I INTEND TO BE KIND--- EVEN TO LET YOU LIVE UNTIL OUR WORK AT THE CAMP IS OVER! BUT I CAN BE HARSH IF YOU FORCE ME!
OH-H!
SLAP!
NEXT DAY---AT THE VITAL CHINESE BASE---
EASY DOES IT, MR. BENTON!
THANK YOU!
BOB TELLS A TALL TALE!
INCREDIBLE STORY, BENTON--- SURVIVING TWO YEARS IN THAT JUNGLE! HOPE YOU MAKE IT BACK TO THE STATES ALL RIGHT!
THANK YOU, SIR! YOU'VE BEEN VERY KIND!

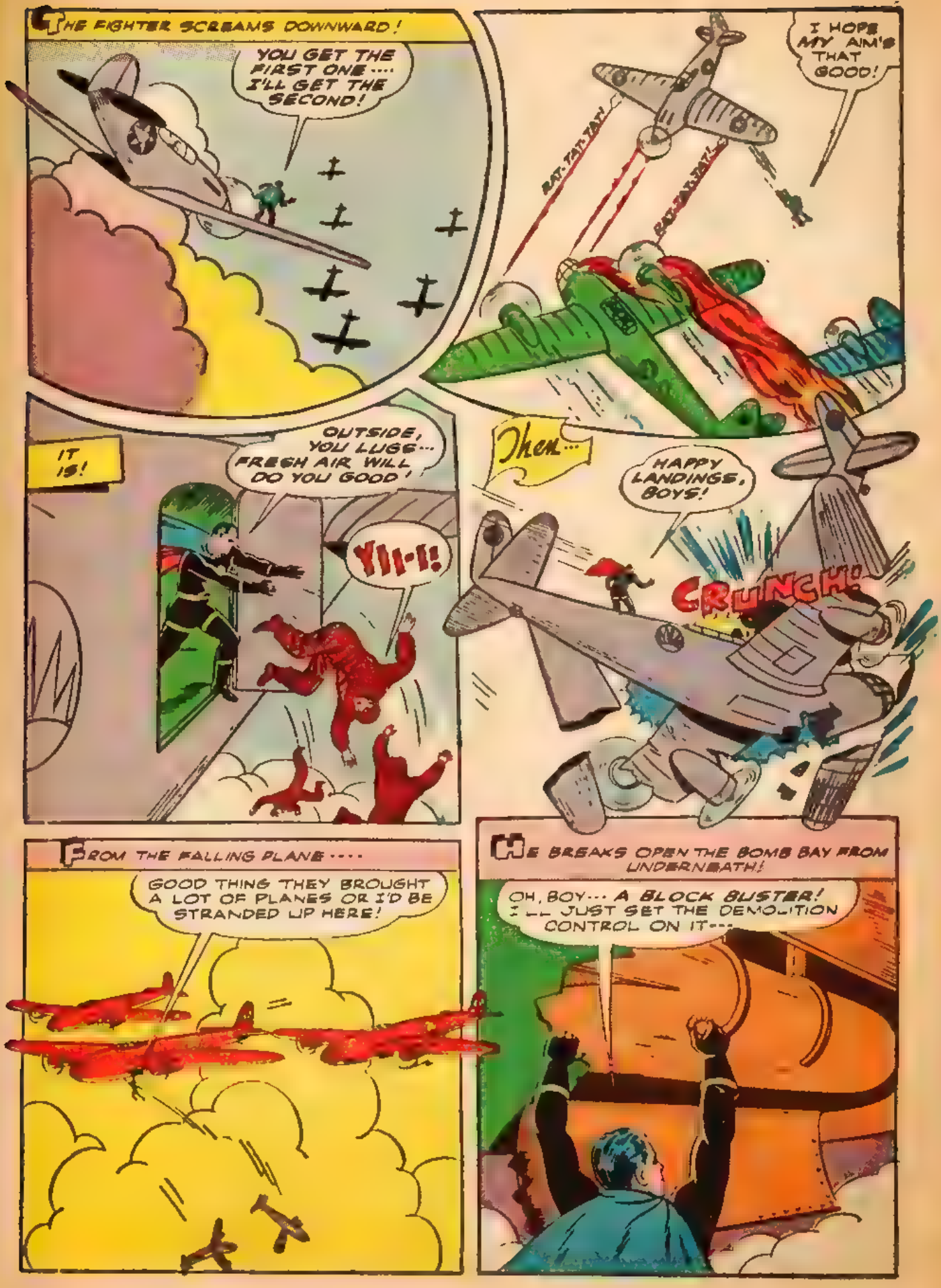
THEY SET OUT FOR THE VILLAGE NEARBY!
YOU SURE HOODWINKED THE ARMY, BOB
I HATED TO DO IT.. BUT TELLING THE TRUTH MIGHT REVEAL THAT I'M THE BLACK TERROR... AND ONLY YOU AND I MUST KNOW THAT
PARDON ME.. I NOTICE YOU'RE AN ARMY DOCTOR! HAS JEAN STARR OF THE RED CROSS ARRIVED YET?
WHY YES.. SHE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE FRIENDS!
SO THEY'RE FRIENDS OF THE REAL JEAN STARR! I'LL LAY LOW-- AND TELL KARAS!
IF THEY START INVESTIGATING THEY'LL LEARN EVERYTHING!
I'LL HAVE THEM TAKEN CARE OF! YOU DO YOUR JOB TONIGHT... AND NO SLIP-UP!
And so it happens that...
WHAT THE-
DUCK, TIM... IT'S AN AMBUSH!
UG!
BACK UP, BROTHER!
HELP!
POW!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG FELLOWS TO JUMP ON!
OH-H!
THIS FOR YOU, PIOS!
UGH!
WHAM!
BOK!

IN ONE OF THE NATIVE HUTS··· KARAM!
IT BECAME NECESSARY TO CAPTURE YOU WHEN WE LEARNED YOU ARE A FRIEND OF JEAN STARR!
JEAN! IF YOU'VE HURT HER···!
THROW THEM IN THE CELLAR··· WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM AFTER HILDA GETS HERE!
TAKE IT EASY, TIM!···OUR TIME'LL COME!
BELOW····
NOW TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON! THESE CORDS ARE NO PROBLEM!
SNAP!
STOP!
WONDER IF THEY'VE HEARD OF THE BLACK TERROR IN INDIA?
UGH!
SOK
TIM THINKS FAST!
GEE···I'M GLAD YOU HAD THAT KNIFE, PAL!
OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FREE IN TIME TO DO THIS!
THE OL' TEAMWORK, EH, TIM?
OW!


N CE OF THEM TO BR NG DOWN OUR SUITCASES!
YES··· WE'LL BE MORE EFFECT VE AS THE BLACK TERROR AND H S FAVORITE SIDE-KICK!
HERE WE GO!
WHOOSH!
KARASI IS CAUGHT OFF GUARD!
UF!
SMASH!
1 UTSIDE ··· HILDA ARRIVES N A STOLEN RED CROSS AMBULANCE
EVERYTHING S SET ··· WE CAN GET BACK TO CALCUTTA IN TH S AMBULANCE!
THEN STEP ON IT ··· THOSE TWO AMERICANS ARE OUT OF CONTROL!
LATER ····
LUCKY THAT BULLET ONLY GRAZED YOU!
YEAH··· SAY, I HEARD HER SAY CALCUTTA! WE'LL FOLLOW!
THIS WILL SLOW THEM UP!
OH!
BANG!
BANG!

Calcutta...
THERE'S THE HOUSE LET'S GO, TIM!
INSIDE...
FLEE! THE BLACK DEMON APPROACHES!
LET THE FOOL COME THE MOMENT THAT DOOR OPENS I'LL FILL HIM WITH HOT LEAD
ALLEY
OOP!
CRASH!
AH.. WAITING WITH OPEN FIREARMS, I SEE!
UGH!
BAM!
HELP!
THIS IS A GREAT CONDITIONER FOR THE BACK
THERE YOU ARE JEAN YOU'RE FREE NOW
... IF YOU'RE IN GOOD CONDITION
COME ON - WE'LL FIX HIM!
WHAM!


TIM AND JEAN TAKE A HAND!
BONK!
BANG!
CRASH!
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN LIVING FOR!
WITH THE SPIES SUBDUED....
NOW... WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
HILDA FIXED THE CAMP'S ORDERS FOR TODAY SO THAT NO PLANES OR GROUND FORCES WILL BE GUARDING THE EASTERN APPROACH TO THE CAMP... AND A HUGE FORCE OF JAP BOMBERS WILL MAKE MINCE-MEAT OF IT!
SMASH!
SO LONG, FOLKS.... THEY'LL BE NEEDING ME UP THERE!
FROM THE BUILDING'S ROOF, A PRODIGIOUS LEAP!
BOY... THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY! THIS FIGHTER WAS FLYING PRETTY LOW!
HUH? ARE YOU A GREMLIN?
OPEN UP! YOU'VE GOT COMPANY!
RAP-RAP!
THE TERROR EXPLAINS THE SET-UP!
I'VE SET A COURSE TO INTERCEPT THEM BEFORE THEY REACH THE FIELD!
LOOK... THERE THEY ARE NOW!


THE FIGHTER SCREAMS DOWNWARD!
YOU GET THE FIRST ONE.... I'LL GET THE SECOND!
I HOPE MY AIM'S THAT GOOD!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
IT IS!
OUTSIDE, YOU LUGG... FRESH AIR WILL DO YOU GOOD!
YII-I!
Then...
HAPPY LANDINGS, BOYS!
CRUNCH!
FROM THE FALLING PLANE....
GOOD THING THEY BROUGHT A LOT OF PLANES OR I'D BE STRANDED UP HERE!
HE BREAKS OPEN THE BOMB BAY FROM UNDERNEATH!
OH, BOY... A BLOCK BUSTER! I'LL JUST SET THE DEMOLITION CONTROL ON IT...

THE HUGE BOMB WREAKS HAVOC··· JUST AS AN INTERCEPTOR FORMATION ARRIVES!
BA-ROOM!
··· AND DROP DOWN TO MY PALS! I KNEW MY PILOT FRIEND WOULD RADIO FOR HELP!
THE FIGHTERS TEAR INTO THE REMAINING BOMBERS!
YA-HOO! MORE FUN THAN I'VE HAD IN YEARS!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
FINALLY··· THE SKY IS COMPLETELY CLEARED OF JAP RAIDERS!
YOU'VE TURNED IN AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE! I'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND YOU FOR A CITATION!
THANKS, GENERAL··· BUT I PREFER TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS!
LATER ····
I'M GLAD YOU CAME THROUGH SAFELY, JEAN!
GOSH ··· WHAT MORE COULD A GIRL ASK THAN TO HAVE THE BLACK TERROR LOOKING OUT FOR HER··· PERSONALLY!
AW, CUT IT OUT, YOU TWO!
Remember··· UNCLE SAM AND The BLACK TERROR ARE RELYING ON YOU!
KEEP BUYING THOSE WAR STAMPS AND BONDS!

A Western Story

DESERT DEED

By REEVE WALKER

JERRY MARTIN halted his little cowpony at the edge of the desert and sat staring at the figure crawling across the white sands. The boy frowned as he watched the slowly moving form. "That looks like an Indian," exclaimed Jerry. "And he is wounded or sick. I'd better try and help him."

Jerry rode until he reached the crawling man. Just as the boy halted, the Indian stopped moving and sprawled motionless. Jerry unfastened his water canteen, and then hesitated before swinging out of the saddle.

The boy and his family had been traveling westward with a covered wagon train guided by Indian scouts. The scouts had warned the settlers that they were heading into Apache country.

"Those Apaches are tricky," one of the scouts had said. "We'll have to be on the lookout for trouble all of the time."

Jerry remembered that now. Perhaps the Apache was just pretending to be hurt.

The Indian uttered a low moan. Jerry decided that he would take a chance on the Indian. He swung out of the saddle and groundhitched his horse. He went to the Indian, lifted his head and gave the warrior some water. The Redman drank, then opened his eyes and looked at the boy.

"Chief Leaping Fox grateful to white boy," muttered the Apache. "What your name?"

"Jerry Martin," answered Jerry. "What happened to you, Chief?"

"Pony fell on Leaping Fox's leg," said the Indian. "Then pony get up and run away.

Leaping Fox not able to walk —so crawl all night, try to find water."

The Indian frowned as he glimpsed a band of horsemen in the distance.

"You go," he said to Jerry. "Ride away quick. Indians come—they not friendly to you-like Leaping Fox."

Jerry did not stop to argue. He handed the chief the water canteen, then swung into the saddle and rode away.

WHEN Jerry reached the wagon train he was scolded by his father for having gone away alone. The boy told what had happened, and the scouts who listened thought he was very lucky to have escaped the Apaches.

"Good thing Chief Leaping Fox was friendly," said a scout. "He is the big chief of the tribe around this part of the country and all the other chiefs obey him."

Finally the covered wagon train started on across the desert. They were ready for trouble. At noon a single warrior appeared with a white rag tied to a lance as a sign he wanted to have a peace powwow. Jerry saw it was Chief Leaping Fox.

"I come to tell white men that because boy saved my life in desert Leaping Fox know white men are friends of Indians," said the chief. "All of my tribe in this part of country will keep peace with white men from now on!"

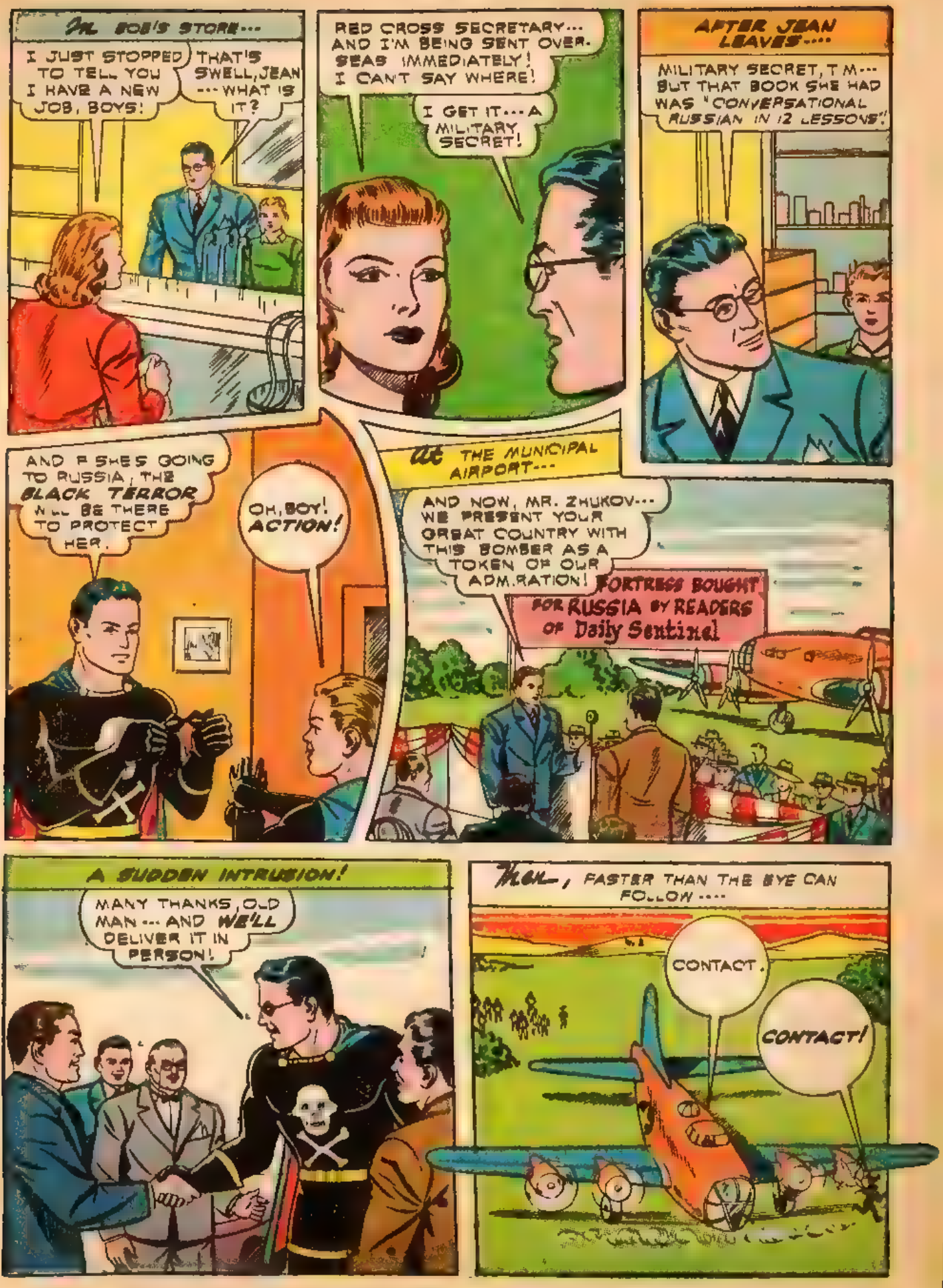
"And we'll keep peace with the Indians," said the boss of the wagon train outfit. "We all thank Chief Leaping Fox."

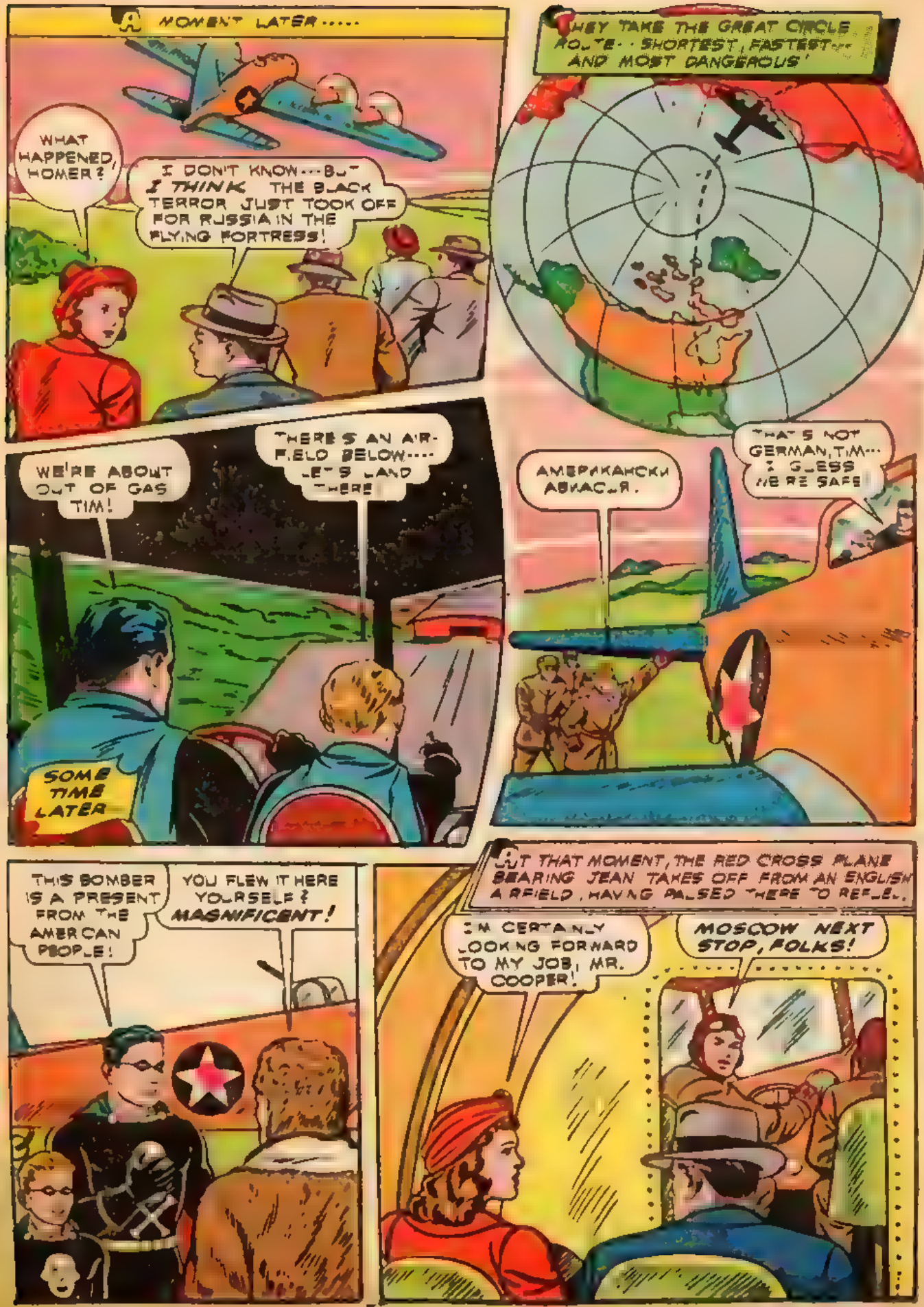
"Better you thank boy named Jerry Martin," said the chief. "He made me sure you all our friends."

Jerry felt very pleased as the people of the wagon train party told him what a good deed he had done.

Jerry Martin Takes a Chance—and Rescues Chief Leaping Fox!

THE BLACK TERROR
IMBUED WITH DYNAMIC PATRIOTISM, BOB BENTON IS TRANSFORMED FROM A MEEK YOUNG DRUGGIST TO THE ALL-POWERFUL BLACK TERROR WITH THE AID OF FORMIC ETHERS! IN THIS GUISE, HE CARRIES THE WAR TO THE ENEMY IN AN ALL-OUT, SMASHING ATTACK!
A Marble River Scan


IN BOB'S STORE...
I JUST STOPPED TO TELL YOU I HAVE A NEW JOB, BOYS!
THAT'S SWELL, JEAN --- WHAT IS IT?
RED CROSS SECRETARY... AND I'M BEING SENT OVER-SEAS IMMEDIATELY! I CAN'T SAY WHERE!
I GET IT... A MILITARY SECRET!
AFTER JEAN LEAVES....
MILITARY SECRET, TM... BUT THAT BOOK SHE HAD WAS "CONVERSATIONAL RUSSIAN IN 12 LESSONS"!
AND SHE'S GOING TO RUSSIA, THE BLACK TERROR WILL BE THERE TO PROTECT HER.
OH, BOY! ACTION!
AT THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT---
AND NOW, MR. ZHUKOV--- WE PRESENT YOUR GREAT COUNTRY WITH THIS BOMBER AS A TOKEN OF OUR ADMIRATION!
FORTRESS BOUGHT FOR RUSSIA BY READERS OF Daily Sentinel
A SUDDEN INTRUSION!
MANY THANKS, OLD MAN --- AND WE'LL DELIVER IT IN PERSON!
Then, FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW ....
CONTACT.
CONTACT!


A MOMENT LATER.....
WHAT HAPPENED, HOMER?
I DON'T KNOW---BUT I THINK THE BLACK TERROR JUST TOOK OFF FOR RUSSIA IN THE FLYING FORTRESS!
THEY TAKE THE GREAT CIRCLE ROUTE--SHORTEST, FASTEST--AND MOST DANGEROUS!
WE'RE ABOUT OUT OF GAS TIM!
THERE'S AN AIR-FIELD BELOW.... LET'S LAND THERE
SOME TIME LATER
АМЕРИКАНСКИ АВИАСЬР.
THAT'S NOT GERMAN, TIM... I GUESS WE'RE SAFE
THIS BOMBER IS A PRESENT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!
YOU FLEW IT HERE YOURSELF? MAGNIFICENT!
BUT THAT MOMENT, THE RED CROSS PLANE BEARING JEAN TAKES OFF FROM AN ENGLISH AIRFIELD, HAVING PAUSED THERE TO REFUEL.
I'M CERTAINLY LOOKING FORWARD TO MY JOB, MR. COOPER!
MOSCOW NEXT STOP, FOLKS!

But..SEVERAL HOURS LATER, OVER NORTHERN POLAND...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ENGINE TROUBLE...I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO LAND.
UNDER THE SMOOTH SNOW, A DITCH-FILLED FIELD!
WE'RE CRACKING UP!
CRUNCH!
A NAZI PATROL SIGHTS THE MISHAP!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN TROUBLE! THE RED CROSS MEANS NOTHING TO THOSE BEASTS!
THEY'RE FIRING AT US!
GET DOWN IN THE REAR OF THE PLANE. WE'LL TRY AND FIGHT THEM OFF!
OH..THE BRUTES!
BAM!
NEIN! YOU COME WITH US!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
LET ME GO!

HOURS LATER, RUSSIAN GUERILLAS ARRIVE ON THE SCENE!
THIS ONE IS DEAD!
WHAT HAPPENED?
NAZIS---TOOK COOPER, MISS STARR--- PRISONERS!
NEXT DAY....
BOY--I'M RARIN' TO GO!
WE'RE GOING, TOO--TO MOSCOW! OH, HELLO, ADREYEV!
I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU --ABOUT MISS STARR!
JEAN! WHAT IS IT?
SHE WAS CAPTURED BY THE NAZIS WHEN THE PLANE CRASHED!
WHERE WAS SHE TAKEN?
WE THINK SHE AND THE MAN WITH HER WERE TAKEN TO A POSITION IN THE FRONT LINES!
I'LL FIND HER IF I HAVE TO COMB THE ENTIRE FRONT!
WAIT FOR ME, TERROR!
HAVEN'T TIME TIM ---- CARRY ON FROM THIS END!
AW!
I'M NOT USED TO THESE SKIS--- BETTER HOLD MYSELF DOWN TO 60 OR 70 MILES AN HOUR!

AH! A NAZI PATROL! NOW I'M GETTING SOMEWHERE!
Bang
I THINK THEY CALL THIS A CHRISTIANA OR SOMETHING!
MY NAME IS BLACK TERROR-SKI!
AGH!
SPEAK UP, RAT... WHICH WAY IS YOUR ENCAMPMENT?
WARNED BY A STEALTHY MOVEMENT, THE TERROR WHEELS!
OH... SO IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT!
WHACK!
THE NAZI CAMP! THIS OUGHT TO BE FUN!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

HALT!
SORRY, PAL... NOT TODAY!
EXCUSE ME, OLD MAN... DIDN'T SEE YOU!
HIMMEL!
A WHIZZING RUSH!
THAT MUST BE THE BOSS'S HANGOUT ...I'LL DROP IN!
Then... A CRASHING ENTRY!
IST DER BLACK TERROR, FRIEND..WITH A QUESTION!
WAS IST?
CRASH!
YOUR ARMY HAS CAPTURED MISS STARR OF THE RED CROSS... WHERE IS SHE?
GLUG!
OH-OH! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GET TOUGH!

UF!
GIVE ME ROOM, BOYS, WHILE I PULL THE PIN OUT OF THIS GRENADE!
POW!
NOW...AS LONG AS I SQUEEZE THE SPOT WHERE I PULLED THE PIN OUT, THIS GRENADE WON'T EXPLODE!
BUT WHEN I RELEASE IT...BAM! NOW IF YOU WANT TO SHOOT ME... SHOOT!
OTHERWISE... SPEAK UP, MAN!
GIRL IS 100 KILOMETRES NORTH... AND SHE WILL BE TIED TO FIRST TANK IN ATTACK ON RUSSIAN POSITION! THEY KILL HER AND WE HAVE GOOD PROPAGANDA AGAINST RUSSIA!
YOU PIGS! HERE... TAKE BACK YOUR OLD GRENADE!
SMASH!
I'M HEADING NORTH!

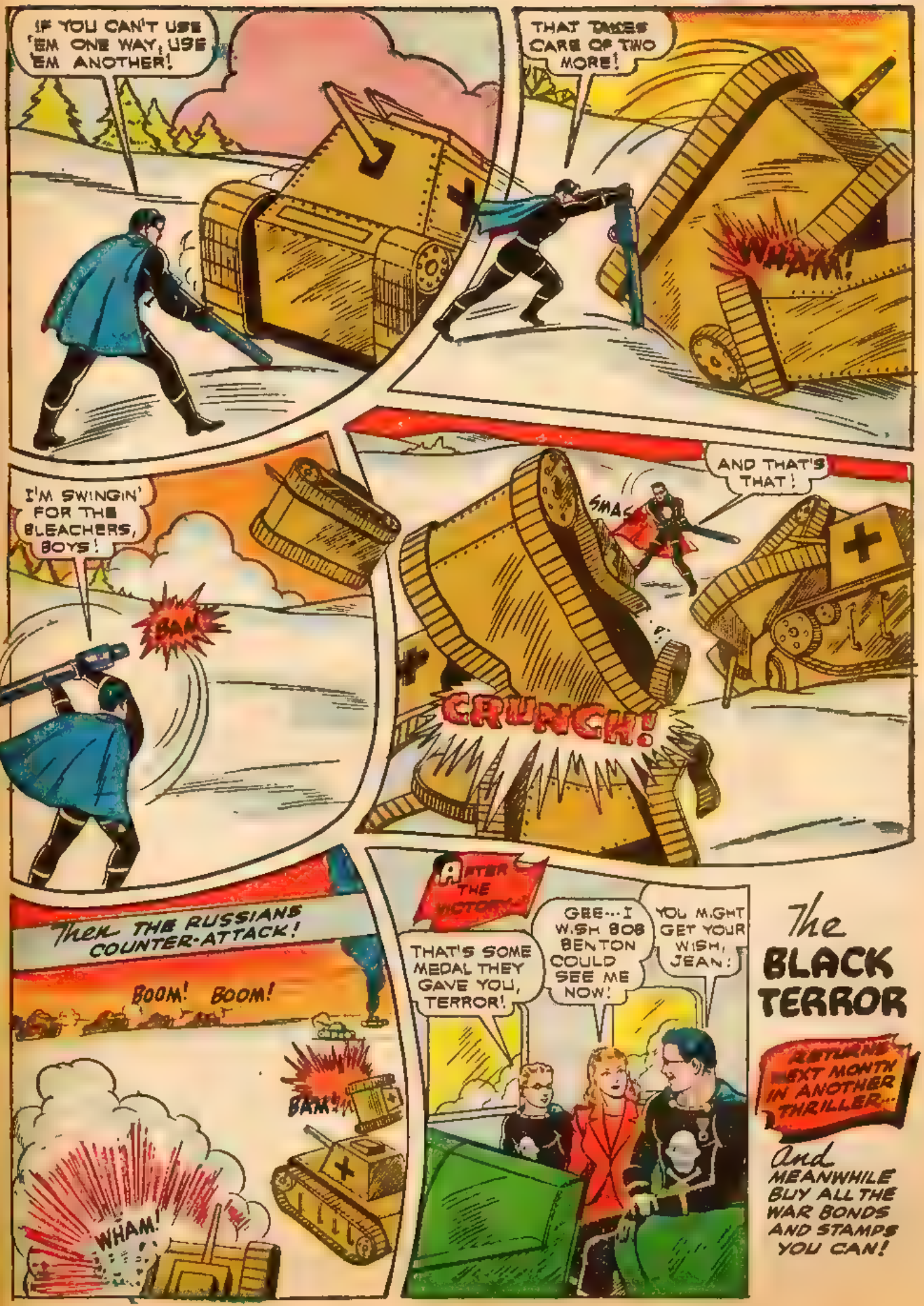
SECONDS LATER---
SAY---I'LL BET I'M MAKING QUITE AN IMPRESSION HERE!
BOOM!
GO AWAY, FELLAS--- NO AUTOGRAPHS TODAY
THEN--- CATASTROPHE!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO---
UGH!
WHAM!
IT'S SURE SWELL OF YOU TO LET ME MAN THIS TAIL GUN!
IF BLACK TERROR TRUSTS YOU, WE TRUST YOU!
MEANWHILE, TIM HAS DISOBEYED ORDERS
THE BOMBER TAKES OFF---ITS OBJECTIVE A NAZI TROOP CONCENTRATION!
WONDER WHERE BOB IS NOW?
OVER THE TARGET---- NAZI FIGHTERS OFFER A CHALLENGE!
RAT-TAT-TAT!

HERE GOES NOTHIN'...!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
HOT DOG...THAT MAKES TWO OF 'EM!
BAM!
RAT-TAT-TAT!
BUT THEN--
ACK-ACK-ACK!
OOF!
CRASH!
BOY, OUR BOMBS SURE WRECKED THIS PLACE.
GUESS I'LL-- JEEPERS! THE BLACK TERROR!

BOB···IT'S TIM! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHA···TIM! GOOD BOY! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE JEAN!
HERE'S A STAFF PLANE THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO USE!
THAT'S JUST THE TICKET.
I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE···· IF THEY'VE HURT JEAN···!
HEDGEHOPPING AT TOP SPEED··· THEY REACH THE BATTLEFIELD QUICKLY!
LOOK···NAZI TANKS ATTACKING THAT CITY!
BUT WHERE··· GREAT SCOTT!
THE NAZI LEGIONS BLAZE FORWARD··
···· AND IN THE LEAD···
I WISH THEY'D SHOOT···AND END IT!

A SCREAMING DIVE!
HANG ON, TIM!
THAT TANK HATCH LOOKS MIGHTY SMALL FROM UP HERE
BUT WE MADE IT!
CR-RASH!
INSIDE THE TANK.... HAVOC!
SAY - CROWDED, ISN'T IT?
I THOUGHT YOU COULD SHOOT THE BLACK TERROR IN!
THESE TANKS SURE CAN TAKE IT
KLANG!

AH··· AN AUTOMATIC CANNON!
MIGHTY MUSCLES TEAR THE ARMOR LIKE TISSUE PAPER!
TAKE CARE OF JEAN, TIM!
RIGHT!
R-RIP!
R-RIP!
WHATEVER WOULD BECOME OF ME···WITHOUT HIM?
THE TERRORS HOLD NO THEM OFF. YOU'LL BE SAFE JEAN.
JEAN'S SAFE··· NOW I CAN REALLY GO TO TOWN!
STALWART AGAINST THE STORM···
BOY···THIS DOES A SWELL JOB!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
OH-OH! IT'S EMPTY!


IF YOU CAN'T USE 'EM ONE WAY, USE 'EM ANOTHER!
THAT TAKES CARE OF TWO MORE!
WHAM!
I'M SWINGIN' FOR THE BLEACHERS, BOYS!
BAM
SMAC
AND THAT'S THAT!
CRUNCH!
AFTER THE VICTORY...
THAT'S SOME MEDAL THEY GAVE YOU, TERROR!
GEE... I WISH BOB BENTON COULD SEE ME NOW!
YOU MIGHT GET YOUR WISH, JEAN!
Then THE RUSSIANS COUNTER-ATTACK!
BOOM! BOOM!
BAM!
WHAM!
The BLACK TERROR
RETURNS NEXT MONTH IN ANOTHER THRILLER...
And MEANWHILE BUY ALL THE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS YOU CAN!

ONE OF THE FAMILY

A Dog Story by WILLIAM McCLELLAN

NO BOY could like having pets as much as Leonard Carter did—and he was delighted when a friend gave him a dog named Rover. Leonard was trying to get his dad's permission to keep the animal—but Mr. Carter was doubtful. He didn't care for dogs around the house.

The Carters lived in a small house at a seaside resort. Leonard spent a lot of time on the beach, throwing sticks out into the water so Rover could chase them. He also enjoyed wading out into the surf until the water was up around his shoulders, and then throwing a stick onto the shore—Rover would pick up the stick and swim back to Leonard with it.

One Saturday afternoon, Leonard was out swimming when his father came home from work. Mr. Carter was driving his car, and he had given a lift to a young Coast Guardsman attached to the life-boat station about a mile down the beach.

When the Coast Guardsman left the car, he turned to Mr. Carter and said:

"If I were you, I wouldn't swim very far from shore this afternoon, Mr. Carter, there's a very strong rip-tide and that means a lot of undercurrent. You're likely to be carried out to sea."

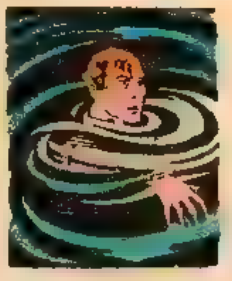
"I don't swim myself," Mr. Carter replied, "but I'll pass on the advice to my folks."

In the house, Mr. Carter looked around for Leonard, and not seeing him, he turned to his wife and asked:

"Where's Leonard?"

"He's out swimming," she replied. "He goes every day."

"But it's dangerous," Mr. Carter replied with a trace of fright in his tone. "The Coast Guardsman just warned me."



Mr. Carter went to look for his son, and saw young Leonard on a sandbar quite a distance from the shore. Mr. Carter called to him, but the wind whipping in from the sea took his words right out of his mouth. He could hear Leonard shout: "I can't get back to shore, the tide's too strong."

Mr. Carter looked around him. There was no boat anywhere. Before he could go to the Coast Guard station for help, the water would be over the sandbar and Leonard would be helpless.

Suddenly Mr. Carter spied Rover. It was obvious that the dog sensed the danger to his young master. He would start into the surf, turn and look toward Mr. Carter then come back barking.

"Good old Rover," Mr. Carter said, suddenly warming up to the animal. "I do believe you want to help Leonard! But you could never swim back with him through that undertow."

Rover barked as though he understood just what Mr. Carter was saying. Then the dog dashed off to where some dried wood was pulled back from the sand. He snatched up a stick in his mouth and came to Mr. Carter. The boy's father suddenly patted the dog on the head, then said:

"Maybe we can do it at that." He hurriedly ran to the house for a coil of rope, then fastened one end of it to the stick Rover held in his mouth. When it was firmly attached, he said: "Go fetch Leonard. Go fetch Leonard."

Leonard had been watching the activity on the beach, and as soon as the rope was tied to the stick he called: "Here, Rover. Here, Rover!"

The intelligent animal jumped up and down in delight, then plunged into the surf and swam out toward the sandbar which was just about a thin strip of yellow now. Minutes later Leonard was patting the wet hair of his dog, adjusting the rope around his shoulders. His father towed him toward shore. Back on the beach, Mr. Carter patted Rover on the head and said:

"You've done a swell job, Rover. Now you're really one of the family!"

Rover's joyous bark and the sparkle in Leonard's eyes showed real pleasure.

Rover's Smart Tricks Prove Useful in Time of Danger!

CRIME
Crushers
READY FOR ADVENTURE? LOOKING FOR REAL THRILLS? ALL ABOARD, THEN FOR A NON-STOP RIDE ALONG THE TRAIL OF TERROR—WITH STEVE BARRY AND "PLOOPIE" CARR THE WE-DO-IT BOYS THEMSELVES!
OUT ON A JOB....
CAN YA IMAGINE ME WALKIN' A POOCH FER A BUCK A DAY WHILE THAT TOWER HEIRESS OVER THERE PLAYS WITH THE MILLIONS HER GRANDFATHER MADE IN DIAMONDS!

... IT AIN'T FAIR! HEY!
PFFF-FT!
R-ROW!
HEY.. YA DUMB HOUND - STOP! WE CAN'T GO IN THERE! THIS IS THE TOWER ESTATE!
PARDON ME, LADIES! HE'S SUCH A HEAD-STRONG CREATURE!
ZIP!
CRASH!
OHHH! THERE HE GOES!
THE ... THE HUMILITY OF T
SPLASH!
SO NICE OF YOU TO DROP N.. I'M BELINDA TOWER!
BUB..
HIYA! I'M PLOOPIE CARR — IF THAT HELPS ANY!
GEE. IF YOU COULD JUST CALL MY PARTNER STEVE BARRY FOR SOME DRY CLOTHES
I'LL GO MAKE THE CALL! BELINDA!
OH.. HOW NICE OF YOU, COUSIN MARGO!

LATER···STEVE ARRIVES·····
HERE Y'ARE, YOU DUMB DRIP! WHERE'S MRS. VAN BREWSTER'S DOG?
DOG? G-GOLLY··· I DUNNO!
OHHH! LOOK!
GOOD HEAVENS! THAT DOG'S DYING! HE--HE'S BEEN KNIFED!
HOLD ONTO THIS KNIFE, MISS TOWER···THERE MAY BE FINGERPRINTS! THE POOR THING'S DEAD, BUT IT LEFT A TRAIL····
THE TRAIL OF BLOOD LEADS BACK INTO THE TOWER MANSION!
STOP! YOU CAN'T BARGE IN HERE LIKE THIS!
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON HERE··· AND I'M FINDING OUT WHAT IT IS! THAT DOG WAS ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE!
OUT-SIDE··· OR I'LL USE FORCE!
IF EITHER OF US IS GOING TO USE FORCE, PAL··· IT'LL BE ME!
POW!
THE BLOOD STAINS LEAD INTO THE LIBRARY! I WONDER···
AS THE TRAIL GROWS HOT····
THEY STOP AT THIS CLOSET DOOR! I'LL··· UGH!
WHAM!

I GOT MY CLOTHES CHA--- GOLLY, STEVE!
SLAM!
UF!
POW!
WHEN STEVE AND FLOOPIE REVIVE ---
WHA---WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S OBVIOUS! WHOEVER HIT US HAD SOMETHING HIDDEN IN THAT CLOSET---AND HE'S TAKEN IT WITH HIM --- OUT THE WINDOW!
HI! WHERE'S MISS TOWER?
DON'T TRY TO BE FUNNY --- YOU KNOW SHE WENT IN THE LIBRARY AFTER YOU!
OH-OH!
THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING WITH BELINDA, FATHER!
SEE HERE---I'M FORSYTHE JAMES, BELINDA'S UNCLE! I DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH HER!
Then ....
DID SOMEBODY HERE CALL THE POLICE?
ER--- YES--- I THINK THESE YOUNG HOODLUM'S HAVE KIDNAPPED MY NIECE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COOKING--- BUT WE'RE NOT STAYING FOR DINNER!

OPEN... IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
O.K., STEVE... IT'S LOCKED!
WHAM! BANG! BAM!
OUT THE WINDOW....
WELL... WE HAVE A NICE SOFT GARDEN TO LAND IN, ANYHOW!
LOOK, PLOOPIE! THESE MUST BE THE FOOTPRINTS OF THE GUY WHO SLUGGED US!
A FINE TIME TO START DETECTIN'.... WITH TWO COPS CHASIN' US!
HUH? THESE PRINTS... THEY VANISH INTO THIS THICK SHRUBBERY AROUND THE HOUSE!
ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT... NOW LET'S SCRAM!
But HIDDEN IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SHRUBBERY...
I THOUGHT SO.. A DOOR! C'MON, PLOOPIE!
WELL, I'LL BE...! IT MUST BE A DISGUISED COAL CELLAR!
INSIDE... PITCH BLACKNESS!
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING... EITHER THERE'S ANOTHER WAY OUT OF HERE, OR THE GUY WHO SLUGGED US IS STILL IN HERE!
Y...YEAH! HEY... IS THAT YOU RUBBIN' MY SHOULDER?
NO!
OHHH... THEN IT'S HIM! WHAT'LL WE DO?
LET'S TAKE A LOOK.. HOLY SMOKE!
GULP... IT'S A CORPSE! A DEAD ONE!

HE··· HE'S BEEN STABBED TO DEATH!
I GET IT NOW! HE WAS MURDERED AND PUT IN THAT CLOSET! THE KILLER STABBED THE DOG WHEN HE STARTED SNIFFING AROUND IT, THEN JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW WITH THE CORPSE AFTER SLUGGING US!
BUT WHO IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE MIGHT! LET'S FIND THE OTHER WAY OUT OF HERE AND LEAVE THE BODY WHERE IT WILL BE FOUND!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD ····
A MOVIE? STEVE··· HOW CAN YOU···?
GOT TO··· IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE TO WAIT FOR SOME ONE TO IDENTIFY THE BODY!
TWO FEATURES, A NEWSREEL AND A CARTOON LATER···
WUXTRY! HIRAM TOWER FOUND MURDERED IN GARDEN! TWO BOYS SOUGHT BY POLICE AS MURDERERS AND KIDNAPPERS!
HOLY SMOKE··· THAT'S BELINDA'S FATHER!
AND TWO BOYS.. THAT'S US!
AT THE HOUSE ADJOINING THE TOWER MANSION····
THIS IS WHERE MARGO JAMES LIVES··· SHE WAS THE LAST ONE TO SEE BELINDA··· AND SHE ACCUSED US·
THAT'S HER OLD MAN··· WHAT'S HE GOT?
HOLY COW··· A MONSTER DIAMOND! IT MUST BE WORTH MILLIONS!
SUDDENLY ····
YOU'RE TOO CLEVER, LUG!
DUCK, PLOOPIE!
WAK!

AT LAST... A FIGHT I CAN GET MY WEIGHT INTO!
SAY I KNOW YOUR UGLY FACE! HOW'S THE HOT JEWEL RACKET, ROCKY?
HOLY SMOKES! HERE COME THE COPS FROM THE TOWER PLACE NEXT DOOR!
BREAK IT UP!
SOK!
BAM!
YOU HEARD HIM, PLOOPIE... HE SAID BREAK IT UP!
HEY, RILEY... THEY'RE GOIN' THAT WAY!
YEAH... BUT THESE OTHERS IS HEADIN' THIS WAY!
THEY'LL NEVER THINK TO LOOK FOR US IN THIS TREE!
WHAT LUCK! THERE'S MARGO JAMES IN THAT ROOM!
SHE MUST HAVE JUST COME FROM THE TOWER PLACE. I GUESS THE COPS MUST HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING ALL THIS TIME!
LOOK! SHE'S TAKING SOMETHING OUT OF HER DRESS ... SOMETHING SHE'S BEEN HIDING!

GREAT SCOTT... THE MURDER KNIFE!
OOPS!
PLEASE DON'T THINK I CONSIDER MYSELF ABOVE THE LAW!
HOLY HANNAH!
UG!
HEY... I FEEL IGNORED!
OH-OH! ANOTHER ONE!
DEJABBERS... I CAN'T GO TWO DIRECTIONS AT ONCE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER....
THOSE GUYS WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR ARE AROUND LOOSE, MR. JAMES... BETTER WATCH YER STEP!
THANK YOU, OFFICER --- I'LL BE ON GUARD!
LUCKY WE SAW JAMES HIDE THE DIAMOND IN HIS DESK WHEN THAT COP WALKED IN! NOW FOR THE TOWER MANSION, PLOOPIE!

THIS WINDOW HAS UNPLEASANT MEMORIES.. I'M GLAD THE HOUSE'S DARK!
YEAH I HAVE A STRONG HUNCH ABOUT THAT CLOSET!
IN THE CLOSET
I THOUGHT SO THERE WERE PLASTER MARKS ON THE DIAMOND... AND IT JUST FITS THIS HOLE! IT WAS HIDDEN HERE!
WELL, I'LL BE...!
SUDDENLY....
HANDS UP OR I'LL KILL YOU ON THE SPOT!
WELL WELL... MY FRIEND, THE BUTLER!
I'M NOT READY TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE YET! THIS WILL KEEP YOU ON ICE TILL WE NEED YOU!
POW!
BANG
OUT INTO THE HALL....
I BET THAT SHOT WILL ATTRACT THE COPS!
BOY WHAT INTUITION!
Then...
OOF!
POW
BLAM!
THEY REVIVE TO FIND....
HOLY SMOKE WHERE ARE WE?
BELINDA ER.. MISS TOWER
SHUT UP!

HOLY CATS... THAT'S THE MURDER KNIFE!
TELL ME QUICKLY... WHERE IS THE OBJECT YOU TOOK FROM THE DESK IN FORSYTHE JAMES' STUDY?
WHERE JAMES FOUND IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I'LL BE BACK... AND IF IT'S NOT THERE YOU'LL ALL DIE!
HE'S GONE... BUT HE'LL KILL US ANYHOW WHEN HE GETS BACK! WE MUST ESCAPE!
HOW? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
WE'LL BREAK OUT!
WHAM!
As PLOOPIE ADDS HIS WEIGHT...
JEEPERS... THE HALL OF THE TOWER MANSION!
YEAH... RIGHT IN THE COPS' LAPS!
CRASH!
AT LAST... GOT YOU TWO DEAD TO RIGHTS!
DON'T BE FOOLS... WE'RE NOT KIDNAPPERS! AND THE MURDERER'S RIGHT HERE... LAUGHING AT YOU!
THEY WERE TIED UP BY THE KIDNAPPER... JUST LIKE I WAS!
YOU'LL FIND THE MURDER KNIFE IN THERE!
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS THE MURDER KNIFE ... UNLESS YOU USED IT!
LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

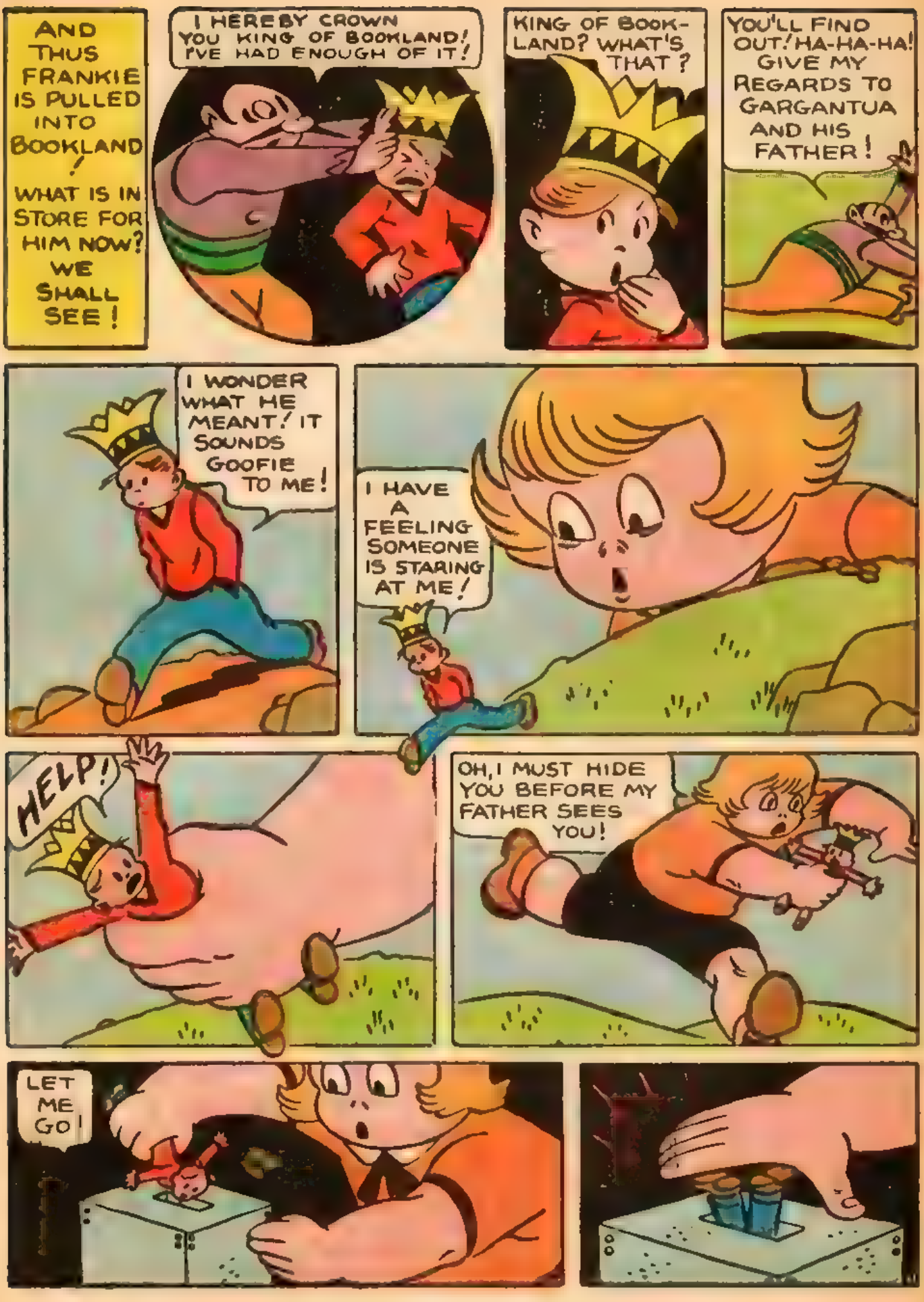
TRUE RUSHES TO THE CLOSET....
IT...IT'S GONE! THERE WAS A DIAMOND ...THIS BIG!
WHY...THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE FAMOUS TOWER DIAMOND THAT DISAPPEARED WHEN MISS BELINDA'S GRANDFATHER DIED!
WHAT ROT!
A SUDDEN ACCUSATION!
I ACCUSE FORSYTHE JAMES OF MURDERING HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW FOR THE DIAMOND WHEN THEY DISCOVERED ITS HIDING PLACE HERE!
WHY... THE MAN'S CRAZY!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, MR JAMES!
YOU'RE MAKING ME DO THIS... LET'S GO, PLOOPIE!
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
I'LL STOP HIM!
OUTSIDE....
ROCKY JENKS... AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
UFF!
DON'T RUSH OFF, BOYS! I THINK YOU HAVE SOME INFORMATION... AND A DIAMOND... I WANT!
BONK!
FROM ROCKY'S POCKET....
NOW WILL YOU BELIEVE ME?
BEGORRA... THE SIZE OF IT! MAYBE THE YOUNG FELLA'S RIGHT AT THAT!
POPPYCOCK! THAT DIAMOND HAS NO CONNECTION WITH ME!

"THEN ROCKY MUST HAVE DONE THE MURDER HIMSELF!
NO YA DON'T--- YOU AIN'T PINNIN' IT ON ME! I JUST AGREED TO HANDLE THE HOT ROCK--- KNOCKIN' OFF TOWER WAS JAMES' IDEA!
YOU FOOL--- KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
THEN--- A HATE-FILLED VOICE SPEAKS!
NEVER MIND, FATHER! I'LL SHOOT THE FIRST ONE WHO TRIES TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING AWAY WITH ME!
GOOD GRL, MARGO!
I ALMOST FORGOT
---IT WAS MARGO WHO KIDNAPPED BELINDA AND HID HER IN THAT SECRET ROOM, I BELIEVE!
RIGHT, BRIGHT EYES--- BELINDA WAS UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE THE KNIFE FATHER USED--- AND I COULDN'T CHANCE ITS BEING FOUND!
STOP TALKING, MARGO!
STEVE STICKS OUT HIS FOOT!
HAVE A NICE TRIP, JAMES!
BANG!
BETTER GIVE ME THAT GUN, MARGO!
YOU--- YOU--- MIGHT HAVE MADE ME KILL HIM!
WE KEPT BELINDA LOCKED UP UNTIL I COULD BE SURE SHE DIDN'T KNOW TOO MUCH ---THAT'S WHY I WORE THE BLACK CLOAK! IF THE FOOLS HADN'T INTERFERED THE BODY WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUND! THEY RUINED MY PLANS!
LATER...
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE REWARD MONEY?
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO BUY MRS. VAN BREWSTER A NEW DOG!
THE WE-DO IT BOYS
next month...
STEVE and PLOOPIE ENCOUNTER THE MOST FEARSOME MENACE YET!
DON'T MISS IT!

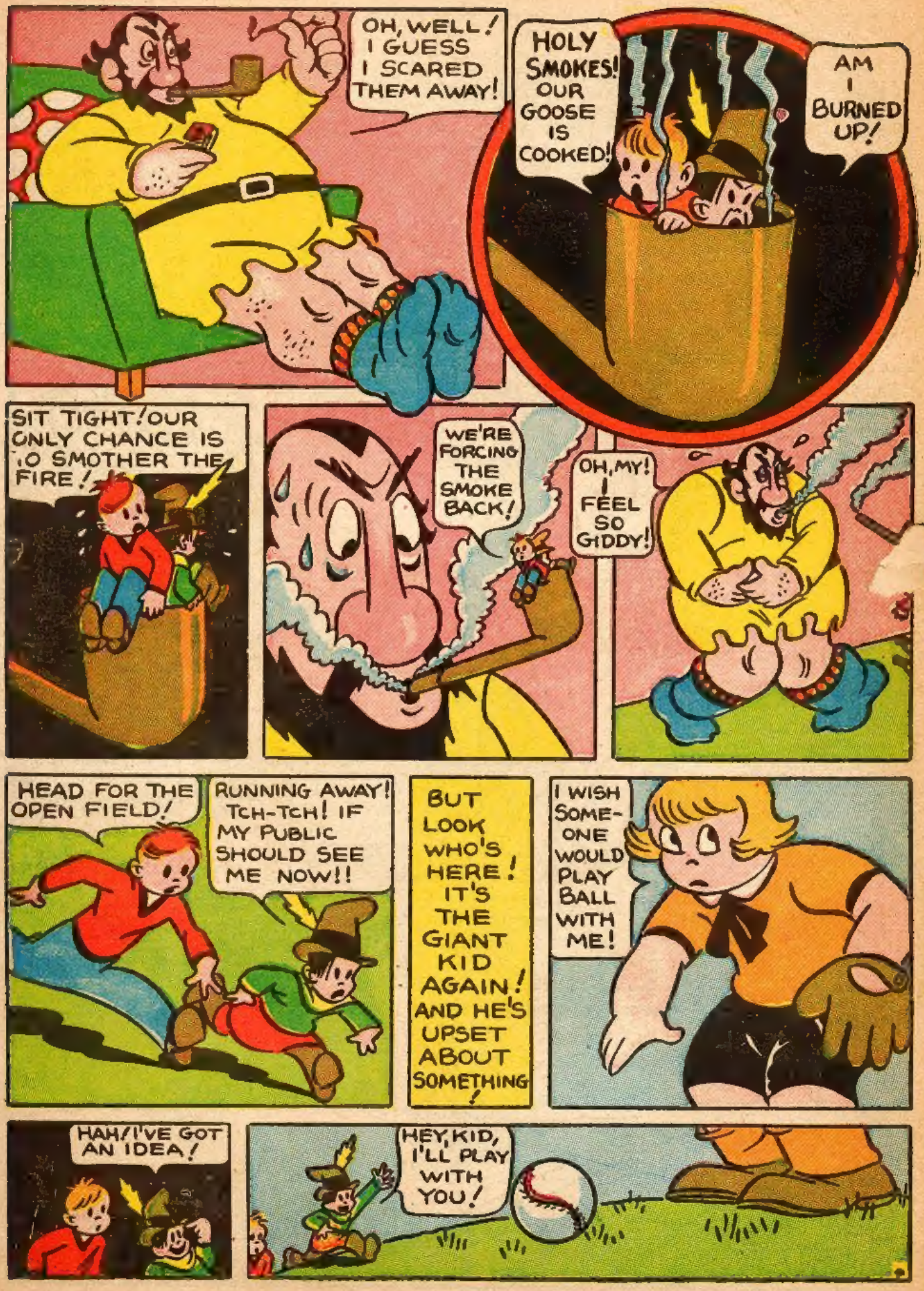
DINNY
YEA!! SCHOOL'S OUT!!
COMING ICE SKATING, DINNY?
NAW---I GUESS I CAN'T.
TROUBLE IN SCHOOL AGAIN?
YEH, ANOTHER NOTE FROM MY TEACHER TO POP.
WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA!!
IT BETTER BE GOOD!
THAT WILL BE A PENNY, YOUNG FELLER.
---AND THEN HOME TO FACE POP.
"MY DEAR MR. SMITHERS:
YOUR SON'S CONDUCT IN SCHOOL TODAY HAS BEEN OUTRAGEOUS. I TRUST THAT YOU WILL PUNISH HIM PROPERLY!
REGRETFULLY,
MISS WALTERS,
TEACHER, CLASS, 6-B"

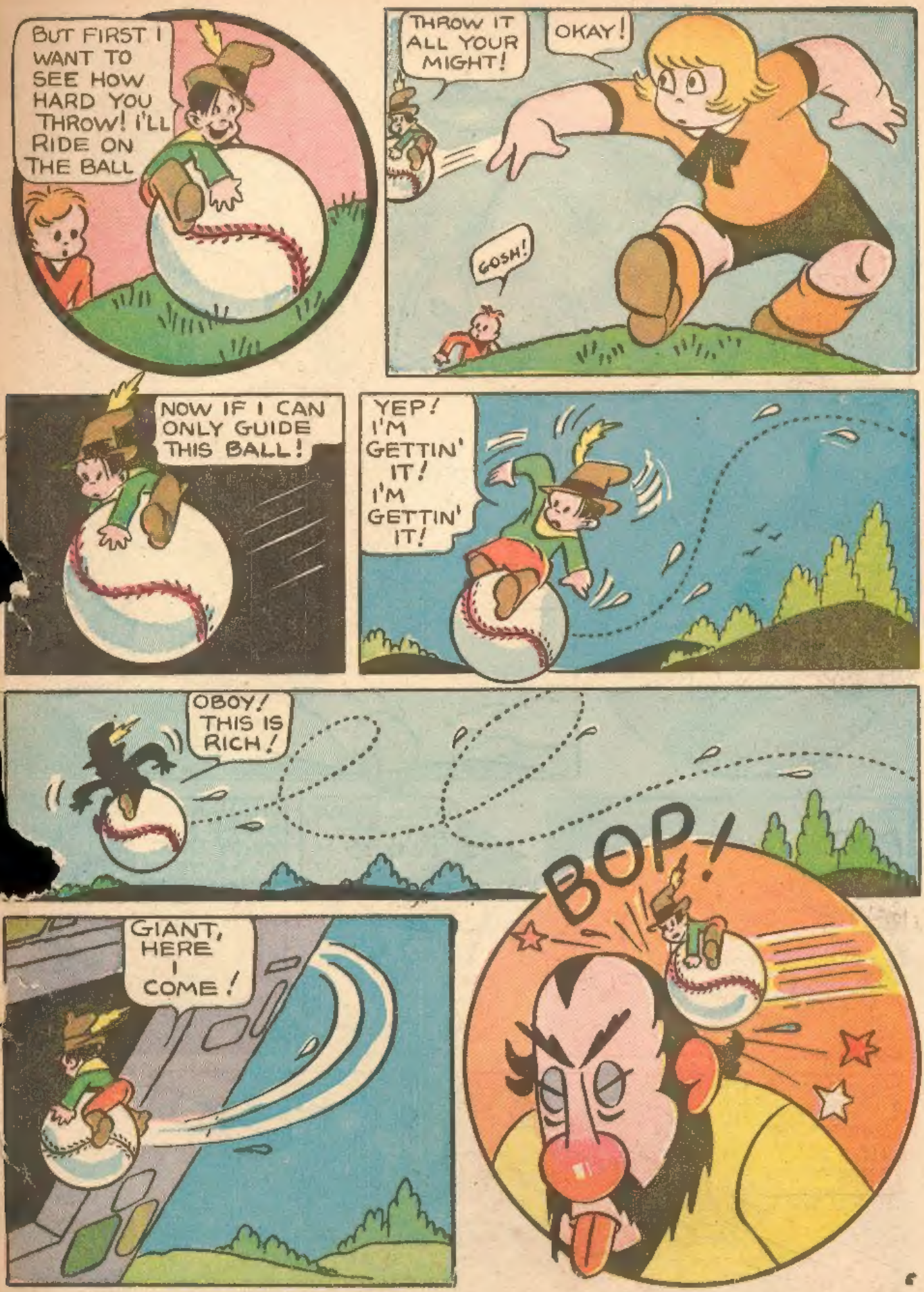
SPANKING SEEMS TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON YOU, SO I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY AT HOME, STUDYING, INSTEAD OF ICE SKATING!!
YES, SIR
NOW'S MY CHANCE!...WHILE POP IS DOWNSTAIRS STOKING THE FURNACE I'LL..
POP—IF I PROMISE TO BE A GOOD BOY CAN I GO ICE SKATING?
ALL RIGHT, SON.. BUT YOU'D BETTER REMAIN ON YOUR GOOD BEHAVIOR!
WHERE'S DINNY?
WHY.. YOU JUST TOLD H M THAT HE COULD GO ICE SKATING!
WHAT? I SAID NO SUCH THING!!
YOU CERTAINLY DID! I HEARD YOU WITH MY OWN EARS!!
YEH, I'M A VENTRILOQUIST!..IT'S AMAZING WHAT A GADGET LIKE THIS CAN DO FOR YOU!

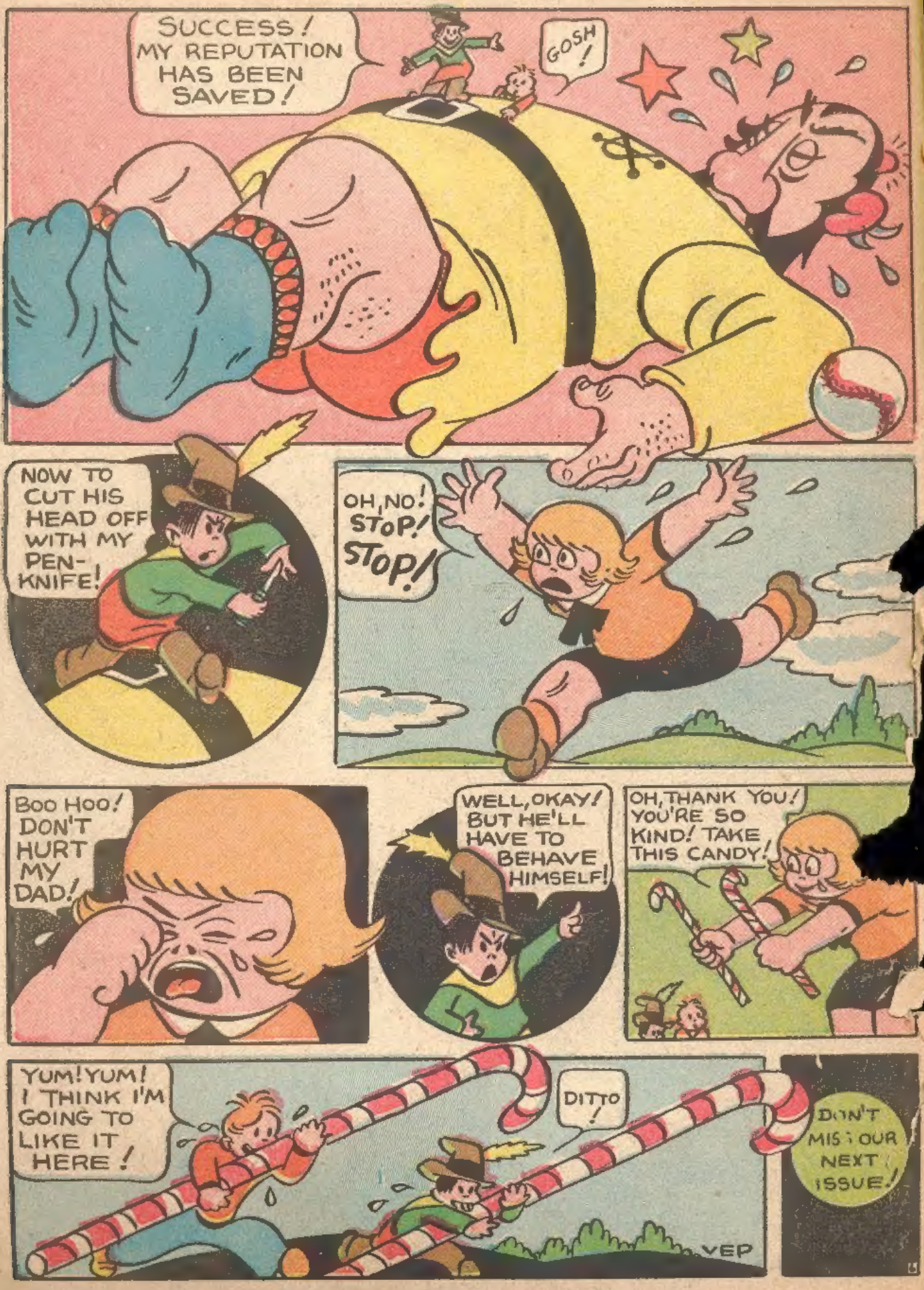
Frankie Fiction
—AND HIS AMAZING ADVENTURES WITH STORY BOOK HEROES
Story Book
ONE DAY FRANKIE OPENED A STORY BOOK, AND, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, AN AMAZING THING HAPPENED — THE PEOPLE IN THE BOOK POPPED UP AND CAME TO LIFE!
COME BACK! DON'T RUN AWAY!
I WANT YOU TO COME INTO THE BOOK!
DON'T BE AFRAID!


AND THUS FRANKIE IS PULLED INTO BOOKLAND! WHAT IS IN STORE FOR HIM NOW? WE SHALL SEE!
I HEREBY CROWN YOU KING OF BOOKLAND! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF IT!
KING OF BOOK-LAND? WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'LL FIND OUT! HA-HA-HA! GIVE MY REGARDS TO GARGANTUA AND HIS FATHER!
I WONDER WHAT HE MEANT! IT SOUNDS GOOFIE TO ME!
I HAVE A FEELING SOMEONE IS STARING AT ME!
HELP!
OH, I MUST HIDE YOU BEFORE MY FATHER SEES YOU!
LET ME GO!

HA! SO GARGANTUA PUT YOU IN TOO!
HE'S A GOOD KID, BUT HIS FATHER IS TERRIBLE! I'M JACK THE GIANT KILLER!
-AND NOW I'M IN HERE AND CAN'T GET OUT! MY REPUTATION IS RUINED!
BUT WAIT! IT JUST HAPPENS THAT THE GIANT IS SHORT OF PIN MONEY, AND HE THINKS OF HIS KID'S BANK!
I HOPE HE'S NOT AROUND
OF COURSE, I'M JUST BORROW-ING THIS!
QUICK! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
THERE'S HIS PIPE! QUICK! HIDE!
HE WON'T LOOK IN HERE!
BUT KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED JUST THE SAME!
HM! THEY'VE VANISHED!


OH, WELL! I GUESS I SCARED THEM AWAY!
HOLY SMOKES! OUR GOOSE IS COOKED!
AM I BURNED UP!
SIT TIGHT! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO SMOTHER THE FIRE!
WE'RE FORCING THE SMOKE BACK!
OH, MY! I FEEL SO GIDDY!
HEAD FOR THE OPEN FIELD!
RUNNING AWAY! TCH-TCH! IF MY PUBLIC SHOULD SEE ME NOW!!
BUT LOOK WHO'S HERE! IT'S THE GIANT KID AGAIN! AND HE'S UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING!
I WISH SOMEONE WOULD PLAY BALL WITH ME!
HAH! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
HEY, KID, I'LL PLAY WITH YOU!


BUT FIRST I WANT TO SEE HOW HARD YOU THROW! I'LL RIDE ON THE BALL
THROW IT ALL YOUR MIGHT!
OKAY!
GOSH!
NOW IF I CAN ONLY GUIDE THIS BALL!
YEP! I'M GETTIN' IT! I'M GETTIN' IT!
OBOY! THIS IS RICH!
GIANT, HERE I COME!
BOP!


SUCCESS! MY REPUTATION HAS BEEN SAVED!
GOSH!
NOW TO CUT HIS HEAD OFF WITH MY PEN-KNIFE!
OH, NO! STOP! STOP!
BOO HOO! DON'T HURT MY DAD!
WELL, OKAY! BUT HE'LL HAVE TO BEHAVE HIMSELF!
OH, THANK YOU! YOU'RE SO KIND! TAKE THIS CANDY!
YUM! YUM! I THINK I'M GOING TO LIKE IT HERE!
DITTO!
VEP
DON'T MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE!